OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JANUARY 2014

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 13

Song 131 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 1 ¶10-17 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Genesis 6-10 (10 min.)

No. 1: Genesis 9:18–10:7 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: If Someone Says, 'As Long as You Believe in Jesus, It Really Does Not Matter What Church You Belong To'—*rs* p. 332 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Aaron—Continue Faithful in Spite of Human Weaknesses—*it*-1 p. 10 ¶4–p. 11 ¶3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 69

10 min: The Value of Repetition in the Ministry. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 206-207. Briefly demonstrate at least one of the points from the material.

10 min: Men Who Minister in a Fine Manner. (1 Tim. 3:13) Interview two ministerial servants. What are their responsibilities in the congregation, and what does caring for these involve? Why did they reach out to be ministerial servants? Why do they enjoy serving the congregation and assisting the elders?

10 min: "Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Micah." Questions and answers.

Song 35 and Prayer

Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Micah

[1] 'When will the end of this corrupt system of things finally come?' The prophet Micah may have pondered a similar question as he proclaimed Jehovah's judgment messages against the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Yet, his preaching was not in vain. In 740 B.C.E., during Micah's lifetime, Jehovah's words against Samaria were fulfilled. (Mic. 1:6, 7) Later, Jerusalem was destroyed in the year 607 B.C.E. (Mic. 3:12) How can we imitate Micah as we await the execution of Jehovah's judgments in our day?

1. What question may Micah have pondered, but why was his preaching not in vain?

[2] **Be Patient:** Micah wrote: "As for me, I will keep on the lookout for Jehovah. I will show a waiting attitude for the God of my salvation." (Mic. 7:7) Of course, Micah did not idly wait for the end to come. He remained busy as Jehovah's prophet. As we await Jehovah's day, we should also be engaged in "holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion." (2 Pet. 3:11, 12) Jehovah's patience allows individuals time to repent. (2 Pet. 3:9) Therefore, we take to heart the divine admonition to imitate the prophets in exercising patience.—Jas. 5:10.

[3] **Rely on Jehovah's Strength:** Although Micah had a challenging assignment, he looked to Jehovah for the strength to carry it out. (Mic. 3:8) It is no coincidence that Jehovah's Word urges us to rely on God for strength. He generously gives power to the tired ones so that they can fulfill their theocratic responsibilities. (Ps. 84:5, 7; Isa. 40:28-31) Have you personally experienced this in your life of sacred service? Do you regularly petition Jehovah for the help of his powerful holy spirit?—Luke 11:13.

[4] Throughout his life, Micah made the doing of God's will his priority. He was determined to remain faithful although surrounded by moral corruption. Similarly, our integrity is tested on a daily basis. Let us therefore strengthen our resolve to "walk in the name of Jehovah our God forever and ever." —Mic. 4:5.

2. How and why do we show patience as we await Jehovah's day?

3. Why should we petition Jehovah for his holy spirit?

4. Micah's life course provides what excellent example for us today?

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 20

Song 34 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 1 ¶18-23, box on p. 14 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Genesis 11-16 (10 min.)

No. 1: Genesis 14:17–15:11 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: If Someone Says, 'What Makes You Think There Is Only One Religion That Is Right?'—*rs* p. 332 ¶3 (5 min.)

No. 3: Abaddon—The Angel of the Abyss—Who Is He?—*it*-1 p. 12 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 123

10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Matthew 7:6-11 read. Consider how these verses can help us in our ministry.

10 min: Show Respect for Those Who Are Working Hard Among You. (1 Thess. 5:12, 13) Discussion based on the following questions: (1) In what ways do the elders work hard in the congregation? (2) How can we show the elders extraordinary consideration? (3) Why do those taking the lead need encouragement? (4) How can we encourage the elders and their families? (5) How does being obedient to those taking the lead benefit both the congregation and the elders?

10 min: "Be More Than a Silent Partner." Questions and answers. Invite audience to relate helpful tips they learned from someone they were working with in the ministry.

Song 93 and Prayer

Be More Than a Silent Partner

[1] The apostle Paul viewed the time he spent with fellow believers as opportunities for "an interchange of encouragement." (Rom. 1:12) When you work with another publisher in the ministry, do you take advantage of this time to encourage and assist him? Instead of being a silent partner, why not share what helps you to be an effective publisher?

1. How may we imitate the apostle Paul's attitude when we are working with others in the ministry?

[2] **Instill Confidence:** Some publishers lack confidence, which may be reflected in their facial expressions or tone of voice. We can bolster their confidence by giving them sincere commendation. What are some other ways to instill confidence? One traveling overseer freely tells his partner about his own fears and how he prays often for help to overcome such feelings. Another brother noted this regarding what helps him reflect confidence: "It starts with a smile. Sometimes I have to pray for help to make that simple expression." Has something helped you to be more confident in the ministry? Share it with your field service partner.

[3] **Share Methods:** Have you found a simple opening statement or question, perhaps something about a local event, to be effective in starting a conversation? Have you experienced good results from adding a personal touch to a sample presentation? Tell your partner. (Prov. 27:17) While traveling to a return visit, you can relate your objective for the visit and how you plan to achieve it. After a Bible study, you could explain why you chose a certain point, scripture, or teaching method to address the student's needs.

[4] First-century evangelizers were not just interested in helping unbelievers. They also saw the value of encouraging and strengthening one another. (Acts 11:23; 15:32) The apostle Paul trained young Timothy and then encouraged him to share what he had learned with others. (2 Tim. 2:2) When we do not forget to do good to fellow Christians while in the ministry, we not only increase their joy and effectiveness but we also please our heavenly Father.—Heb. 13:15, 16.

2. What can we do to bolster the confidence of our field service partner, and why is this important?
3. What can we share with our partner that may help him become more effective in his ministry?
4. Why should we be interested in helping fellow evangelizers?

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WEEK STARTING JANUARY 27

Song 106 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 2 ¶1-11 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Genesis 17-20 (10 min.)
No. 1: Genesis 17:18–18:8 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Jesus Did Not Go to Heaven in a Physical Body—*rs* p. 334 ¶1-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: Abba—How Is the Term "Abba" Used in the Scriptures, and How Have Men Misused It?—*it*-1 pp. 13-14 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 121
***5* min: Start a Bible Study on the First Saturday.** Talk. Outline local arrangements for field service on the first Saturday in February, and encourage all to have a share. Include a brief demonstration using the sample presentation on page 4.
***15* min: What Are Your Spiritual Goals?** Discussion based on the *Organized* book, page 117, paragraph 2, to the end of the chapter. Interview one or two publishers who reached their goal of full-time service. What encouragement did they receive from others? What obstacles did they overcome? What blessings have they enjoyed?
10 min: "Magazine Routes—Useful for Starting Bible Studies." Questions and answers. Invite audience to relate how they were eventually able to start a Bible study with someone who was on their magazine route.
Song 103 and Prayer

Magazine Routes—Useful for Starting Bible Studies

[1] Many people are not inclined to study the Bible with us, but they enjoy reading our magazines. Therefore, Jehovah's organization has long encouraged publishers to develop a magazine route. As people regularly read our magazines, they often form a longing for God's Word. (1 Pet. 2:2) Eventually, something they read could strike a responsive chord, causing them to accept a Bible study.

1. Why has Jehovah's organization long encouraged publishers to develop a magazine route?

[2] **'Water' Seeds of Truth:** Rather than simply dropping the magazines off, engage the householder in conversation and try to build a rapport with him. This will help you to learn his circumstances, interests, and beliefs, which will enable you to speak with insight. (Prov. 16:23) Prepare for each visit. If possible, briefly highlight a point and related scripture from the magazines, watering any seeds of truth in his heart. (1 Cor. 3:6) Make a record of the date of each visit, the literature that was left, and the subjects and scriptures that were discussed.

[3] **Return How Often?** You should return once a month to bring the latest magazines to those on your route. However, depending on your circumstances and the interest of the individual, you may choose to visit more often. For example, a week or two after leaving the magazines, you could return and say, "I stopped by briefly to point out something from the magazines I left you." This will whet the person's appetite to read a particular article. If he has already read it, you could ask him what he thought about the article and discuss it briefly. Or if the individual enjoys reading our literature, you might return and offer him the tract, brochure, or book that we are featuring that month.

[4] Do not wait for the householder to ask you for a study. Take the initiative. Even if he has refused a Bible study in the past, from time to time you can feature "Bible Questions Answered" from *The Watchtower* and see if he is willing to discuss it with you. Perhaps you can start a doorstep study. However, if you are unable to start a study, you can continue bringing him the magazines to cultivate his interest.

2. How may we cultivate the interest of those on our route?
3. How often should we return to visit those on our magazine route?
4. From time to time, what can we do to determine if those on our route might be willing to study the Bible?

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 3

Song 22 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 2 ¶12-20 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Genesis 21-24 (10 min.)
No. 1: Genesis 23:1-20 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why Did Jesus Appear in Materialized Bodies?—*rs* p. 334 ¶4–p. 335 ¶2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Abel—Exercise Faith That Pleases God—*it*-1 p. 15, Abel No. 1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 81
10 min: Offer the Magazines During February. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered, using the sample presentations on this page. Then analyze the sample presentations from beginning to end by reading each part, a sentence or two at a time, and inviting the audience to comment on its purpose. Remind publishers that they should use their own words, and they can choose to alter the sample presentation or prepare another one. Conclude by briefly encouraging all to become well-acquainted with the magazines and to share enthusiastically in their distribution.
10 min: Local needs.
10 min: By Their Fruits You Will Recognize Them. (Matt. 7:16) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook,* page 47, paragraphs 1-2; and page 52, paragraph 1, to page 53, paragraph 1. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
Song 25 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **January and February**: Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **March and April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines.

■ Since March has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in February

"People we speak to have different opinions about the Bible. Some believe it's God's Word, while others view it as just an ordinary book. How do you feel about the Bible?" Allow for response. Show the back of the February 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM® February 1

"Most people would like to see an end to war. Do you think that world peace is a realistic goal? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Scriptures promise. [Read Psalm 46:9.] Interestingly, events that occurred during World War I and thereafter give us confidence that very soon God will fulfill this prophecy and end war forever. This magazine explains."

Awake!® February

"We're visiting briefly to discuss a common problem. It seems that there's never enough time to accomplish everything. Do you think that our schedules are full because we have too much to do or because we waste too much of our time? [Allow for response.] Many are not aware that the Bible gives practical advice to help us manage time. Here's one example. [Read Philippians 1:10a.] This magazine outlines four strategies that have helped many people to use their time more wisely."

Field Service Highlights

We are happy to report that 4,705 newly dedicated ones were baptized during the month of July 2013. Also, 804 books, 351 brochures, and 291 magazines were requested by interested persons submitting coupons found in our publications. Like leaven, the Kingdom-preaching work promotes spiritual growth with Jehovah's blessing.—Matt. 13:33.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY
FEBRUARY 2014

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 10

Song 57 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 2 ¶21-24, box on p. 24 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Genesis 25-28 (10 min.)
No. 1: Genesis 25:19-34 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Those Resurrected to Rule With Christ Will Be Like Him—*rs* p. 335 ¶4–p. 336 ¶2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Abhorrent Thing—Jehovah's View of Idolatry and Disobedience—*it*-1 p. 17 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 94
15 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have John 4:6-26 read. Consider how this account can help us in our ministry.
15 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Making a Record of the Interest." Discussion. When considering each bulleted point under "How to Do It," invite comments on why the suggestions are beneficial.
Song 98 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Making a Record of the Interest

"Pay constant attention to yourself and to your teaching." (1 Tim. 4:16) This inspired counsel from the apostle Paul to Timothy indicates that, whether we are new or experienced, we should endeavor to make progress. To help us do that, a new series entitled "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry" will appear in *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Each article will discuss an important skill and provide some suggestions on how to develop it. During the month, all are encouraged to give that skill special attention. After the month concludes, a Service Meeting part will give us an opportunity to comment on how we benefited from concentrating on that skill. This month we are encouraged to work on making a record of the interest.

Why Important: To fulfill our commission, we must do more than preach. We must return to those who show interest and teach them, watering the seeds of truth that we have planted. (Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 Cor. 3:6-9) This requires finding the person again, talking about his concerns, and building on our previous conversation. Therefore, when we find interest, it is necessary to make a record of it.

How to Do It:

- Make sure that you have tools in your witnessing case for recording interest. Keep your records neat, well-organized, and up-to-date. Make a record as soon as you finish the call.
- Write down information about the householder. What is his name and contact information, such as his address, phone number, or e-mail address? What did you observe about him and his family that may be significant?
- Write down the details of your conversation. What scriptures did you read? What did he say about his beliefs? What literature did you leave? Record the time, the day of the week, and the date of the visit.
- Write down what you plan to do next time. What did you promise to discuss? When did you say you would return?
- Update your record each time you return. No harm is done if you write down more information than you need.

Try This During the Month:

- When making a record, tell those with whom you are working what you are writing down.

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 17

Song 15 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 3 ¶1-10 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Genesis 29-31 (10 min.)
No. 1: Genesis 29:21-35 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: What the Resurrection Will Mean for Mankind in General—*rs* p. 336 ¶3–p. 337 ¶3 (5 min.)
No. 3: Abiathar—An Act of Disloyalty Can Nullify Years of Faithful Service—*it*-1 pp. 18-19 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 92
10 min: Preach With Warmth. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 118, paragraph 1, to page 119, paragraph 5.
***5 min:* Are You Using jw.org in Your Ministry?** Discussion. Invite audience to relate good experiences they have had using jw.org in the ministry. Encourage the audience to publicize jw.org at every appropriate opportunity.
15 min: "Make This Memorial Season a Joyful One!" Questions and answers. Invite those planning to auxiliary pioneer despite health challenges or a full schedule to relate the adjustments they will make in order to expand their ministry. When considering paragraph 3, invite the service overseer to outline local arrangements for meetings for field service during March, April, and May.
Song 8 and Prayer

Make This Memorial Season a Joyful One!

1 Would you like to increase your joy during March, April, and May? One way to do that is to expand your ministry and, if possible, auxiliary pioneer. How will this add to your joy?

2 **Increase Your Joy:** Jehovah created us with the capacity to experience joy and satisfaction from worshipping him as we fulfill our inborn spiritual need. (Matt. 5:3) He also designed us in such a way that we can gain happiness from giving to others. (Acts 20:35) The ministry allows us to do both—to worship God and to help people. It stands to reason that having an increased share in the ministry results in even greater joy. In addition, the more we preach, the more skillful we may become. As we gain skill, we build our confidence and minimize our nervousness. We will have more opportunities to give a witness and to start Bible studies. All of this makes the ministry more enjoyable.

3 March and April will be especially good months to auxiliary pioneer because we can choose either a 30- or a 50-hour requirement. In addition, beginning Saturday, March 22, and continuing until the Memorial on Monday, April 14, we will participate in an enjoyable campaign to invite others to attend the Memorial. Congregations will be abuzz with excitement, as many will be working "shoulder to shoulder" to cover as much of the territory as possible in the allotted time.—Zeph. 3:9.

4 **Prepare Now:** If you have not already done so, take time to review your schedule and see what adjustments you can make to expand your ministry during one or more months. Make it a matter of prayer. (Jas. 1:5) Talk about it with your family and others in the congregation. (Prov. 15:22) You may find that despite health challenges or a full work schedule, you too can experience the joy that comes from auxiliary pioneering.

5 Jehovah wants his servants to be joyful. (Ps. 32:11) By exerting ourselves to expand our ministry this Memorial season, not only will it increase our joy but it will also bring joy to our heavenly Father.—Prov. 23:24; 27:11.

1. What is one way to increase our joy during this Memorial season?
2. How will expanding our ministry result in increased joy?
3. Why will March and April be especially good months to auxiliary pioneer?
4. If we want to auxiliary pioneer, what should we do?
5. What will result if we expand our ministry this Memorial season?

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WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 24

Song 101 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 3 ¶11-18 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Genesis 32-35 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 96

***5 min:* Start a Bible Study on the First Saturday.** Talk. Outline local arrangements for field service on the first Saturday in March. Demonstrate the sample presentation on page 4.

15 min: The Importance of Persistence. Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook,* page 45, paragraph 1, to page 46, paragraph 1; and pages 136-137. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

10 min: "Memorial Invitation Campaign Starts March 22." Talk by the service overseer. Distribute a copy of the invitation, and discuss its contents. Review applicable points from the letter of instruction sent to the elders, and outline local arrangements for covering the territory.

Song 109 and Prayer

Memorial Invitation Campaign Starts March 22

This year our campaign to invite others to attend the Memorial begins on Saturday, March 22. All are encouraged to have a full share. On the weekends we will also offer the current magazines when appropriate. On the first Saturday in April, we will focus on distributing invitations rather than on starting Bible studies. However, if we encounter someone who shows special interest, we may still try to start a Bible study. The service overseer can determine whether distributing invitations through public witnessing will help the congregation to reach more people in its territory. Make a list now of relatives, workmates, schoolmates, return visits, and other acquaintances whom you wish to invite, and give them an invitation when the campaign begins. We hope that many will join us as we commemorate the two greatest expressions of love.—John 3:16; 15:13.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning February 24, 2014.

1. What did Satan get Eve to focus on, and what did Eve show by eating from the forbidden tree? (Gen. 3:6) [Jan. 6, *w11* 5/15 pp. 16-17 par. 5]
2. How may Abel have developed his strong faith, and in what did it result? (Gen. 4:4, 5; Heb. 11:4) [Jan. 6, *w13 1/1* p. 12 par. 3; p. 14 pars. 4-5]
3. How can parents protect their children from admiring worldly "mighty ones" and "men of fame"? (Gen. 6:4) [Jan. 13, *w13 4/1* p. 13 par. 2]
4. What can we learn from the account about Lot and his wife, as recorded at Genesis 19:14-17, and 26? [Jan. 27, *w03* 1/1 pp. 16-17 par. 20]
5. How did Abraham demonstrate his faith both in the resurrection and in Jehovah's promise that an offspring would be through Isaac? (Gen. 22:1-18) [Feb. 3, *w09* 2/1 p. 18 par. 4]
6. What important truths can we learn from the prophecy recorded at Genesis 25:23, which states that "the older will serve the younger"? [Feb. 10, *w03* 10/15 p. 29 par. 2]
7. What was the significance of Jacob's dream involving what some translations call a ladder? (Gen. 28:12, 13) [Feb. 10, *w04* 1/15 p. 28 par. 6]
8. Why was Laban so anxious to retrieve the stolen teraphim? (Gen. 31:30-35) [Feb. 17, *it-2* p. 186 par. 2]
9. What do we learn from the angel's response to Jacob at Genesis 32:29? [Feb. 24, *w13* 8/1 p. 10]
10. What is one way to avoid consequences like those that befell Dinah? (Gen. 34: 1, 2) [Feb. 24, *w01* 8/1 pp. 20-21]

WEEK STARTING MARCH 3

Song 112 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 3 ¶19-21, box on p. 34 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Genesis 36-39 (10 min.)
No. 1: Genesis 37:1-17 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why Resurrected Ones Will Not Be Condemned for Their Past Deeds—*rs* p. 338 ¶1 (5 min.)
No. 3: Abigail—Display Qualities That Honor Jehovah—*it*-1 pp. 20-21, Abigail No. 1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 117
10 min: Offer the Magazines During March. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered using the sample presentations on this page. Then analyze each sample presentation from beginning to end. Conclude by inviting suggestions on how the magazines could be offered along with the Memorial invitation on the last two weekends of the month.
10 min: Local needs.
10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Making a Record of the Interest." Ask the audience to relate good experiences.
Song 95 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **February:** Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **March and April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **May:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or one of the following tracts: *How Do You View the Bible?, How Do You View the Future?, What Is the Key to Happy Family Life?, Who Really Controls the World?,* or *Will Suffering Ever End?*

■ The special public talk for the 2014 Memorial season is entitled "Why Would a Loving God Permit Wickedness?"

■ When engaging in public witnessing using a table or a cart, publishers *should not display* Bibles. However, they may have Bibles available to offer to individuals who request one or who demonstrate sincere interest in the truth.

■ The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed for spring cleaning on Friday, May 9, 2014. There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on this day. Also, there will be no arrangement for tours on the day of the Memorial, Monday, April 14, 2014.

■ Since March has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in March

"We're visiting briefly because of something that will occur on April 14. That date is the anniversary of Jesus' death. Some will commemorate the occasion because they feel that his death was important. Others are not sure of the significance of Jesus' death. Do you think that Jesus' death benefits you and me?" Allow for response. Show the back of the March 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM March 1

"Many people wonder why God doesn't act to end the injustice and suffering in the world. Do you think it's because God doesn't care or because he feels that it's good for humans to suffer? [Allow for response. Then read John 3:16.] Although many quote this verse to show that God cares, they are not sure how the death of God's son actually benefits them. This magazine explains how Jesus' death makes possible the end of injustice and suffering on earth."

Awake!® March

"We're visiting briefly to try to clear up a misconception that many have about this Bible verse. [Read Genesis 1:1.] Some believe this, that the universe was created, while others do not. May I ask what your opinion is? [Allow for response.] Many have trouble believing in creation because religious leaders teach something that the Bible really doesn't say. This magazine presents the Bible's logical and credible explanation of the beginning of the universe."

Field Service Highlights

We are thrilled to report two new peaks during the month of August 2013! In the United States there was a new peak of 1,219,931 publishers. This is an increase of 16,289 over the previous peak in August 2012. Additionally, the Bahamas reported a peak of 205 regular pioneers. These figures show that many are willingly making sacrifices for Jehovah. —Ps. 54:6.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MARCH 2014

WEEK STARTING MARCH 10

Song 1 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 4 ¶1-9 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Genesis 40-42 (10 min.)
No. 1: Genesis 41:1-16 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: How Do the Rest of the Dead Come to Life on Earth?—*rs* p. 338 ¶2–p. 339 ¶2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Abihu—Prominence Does Not Excuse Disobedience—*it*-1 p. 22 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 88
15 min: Family Worship That Refreshes. Interview a family regarding their family worship. Of what does their program consist? How do they determine what to discuss? What tools available on jw.org have they used? How has their program helped them in the ministry? How do they prevent other activities from disrupting their schedule? How have they benefited from their program of family worship?
15 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Responding to Potential Conversation Stoppers." Discussion. Consider two or three potential conversation stoppers that publishers may encounter, and invite comments on how we might respond. Remind publishers that they will have an opportunity to relate experiences during the week of April 7.
Song 97 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Responding to Potential Conversation Stoppers

Why Important: Imagine that you know that a natural disaster is imminent. People will die unless they flee to safety. You go to a neighbor's home to warn him, but he interrupts you, saying that he is busy. Surely, you would not quickly abandon your efforts to help him! Many in our territory turn us away, not realizing the life-saving value of our message. At the time of our visit, perhaps they are preoccupied. (Matt. 24:37-39) Or maybe they have been prejudiced by untrue rumors. (Matt. 11:18, 19) They might assume that we are no different from the religions that have produced bad fruitage. (2 Pet. 2:1, 2) If the householder initially is not interested, we should not be quick to give up.

How to Do It:

- Before preaching from house to house, take a few moments to think about potential conversation stoppers that you may encounter and consider how to respond.
- If the householder presents an objection, gently try to continue the conversation. Perhaps you can do that by commending him. For example, if he says that he has his own religion, you might reply, "I was hoping to find someone like you who has an interest in spiritual things." Sometimes acknowledging the householder's feelings or circumstances will enable you to continue giving a witness. For instance, if he says that he is busy, you might say: "I understand. But before I leave, I would like to give you this." Another option is to ask a question if the householder says that he is not interested. You could say, "Do you mean that you are not interested in the Bible, or is it religion in general that does not interest you?"
- Use good judgment. Remember that Jehovah does not force people to listen. (Deut. 30:19) Everyone must carry his own load of spiritual responsibility. (Gal. 6:5) If the householder is adamant, it is best to take our leave. By demonstrating respect for his feelings, we may open the door for another publisher to give a witness in the future. —1 Pet. 3:15.

Try This During the Month:

- When you encounter a potential conversation stopper, after leaving the householder, discuss with your partner how you might have responded in a better way.

WEEK STARTING MARCH 17

Song 113 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 4 ¶10-18 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Genesis 43-46 (10 min.)
No. 1: Genesis 44:18-34 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Who Will Be Included in the Earthly Resurrection?—*rs* p. 339 ¶3–p. 340 ¶3 (5 min.)
No. 3: Abijah—Do Not Stop Leaning Upon Jehovah—*it*-1 p. 23, Abijah No. 5 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 61
15 min: Demonstrate Tactfulness When Preaching. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 197, paragraph 1, to page 199, paragraph 4. Have a realistic demonstration showing a publisher responding to a common objection without using tact. Then have another demonstration showing the publisher replying to the same objection in a tactful manner.
15 min: "Will You Seize the Opportunity?" Questions and answers. Invite audience to relate how they plan to consider the special Memorial Bible reading. Outline local arrangements for the Memorial.
Song 8 and Prayer

Will You Seize the Opportunity?

Upcoming Memorial Enables Us to Show Gratitude

[1] The Memorial on April 14 presents a unique opportunity to cultivate and demonstrate gratitude for Jehovah's goodness. The account at Luke 17:11-18 indicates how Jehovah and Jesus view gratitude. Sadly, only one of the ten cured lepers seized the opportunity to express thanks. In the future, the gift of the ransom will bring about a complete healing of all maladies, making everlasting life a reality! No doubt, we will then thank Jehovah daily for such blessings. But how can we show our gratitude during the coming weeks?

1. What special opportunity does the Memorial present?

[2] **Cultivate Gratitude:** Feelings of gratitude are generated by thoughts. To help us build our appreciation for the ransom, a schedule for the special Memorial Bible reading can be found in a number of places, such as in appendix B12 of the revised *New World Translation,* the calendar, and *Examining the Scriptures Daily.* Why not consider this information as a family? Doing so will heighten our appreciation for the ransom. This, in turn, will have a positive effect on our conduct.—2 Cor. 5:14, 15; 1 John 4:11.

[3] **Demonstrate Gratitude:** Gratitude is proved by action. (Col. 3:15) The grateful leper made the effort to find Jesus and thank him. Doubtless, he also spoke enthusiastically about his miraculous healing to others. (Luke 6:45) Will gratitude for the ransom move us to share zealously in the campaign to publicize the Memorial? Auxiliary pioneering or increasing our share in the ministry during the Memorial season is another fine way to demonstrate thankfulness. On the evening of the Memorial, an appreciative heart will motivate us to welcome visitors and to make ourselves available to answer their questions.

[4] Will this Memorial be our last? (1 Cor. 11:26) We do not know. But we do know that once it passes, gone will be a unique opportunity to show gratitude. Will you seize it? May the appreciative words of our mouth and the meditation of our heart bring pleasure to Jehovah, the generous Provider of the ransom. —Ps. 19:14.

2. How may we cultivate gratitude for the ransom?
3. In what ways can we demonstrate our gratitude during the Memorial season?
4. How can we make this Memorial one without regrets?

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WEEK STARTING MARCH 24

Song 104 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 4 ¶19-23, box on p. 45 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Genesis 47-50 (10 min.)

No. 1: Genesis 48:17–49:7 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: The Events Associated With Christ's Presence Take Place Over a Period of Years—*rs* p. 341 ¶1-2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Abimelech—Presumptuousness Ends in Personal Disaster—*it*-1 p. 24, Abimelech No. 4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 56

10 min: Imitate the Example of Nehemiah. Discussion. Invite comments from the audience on how Nehemiah's example can help us as evangelizers.

10 min: Use Questions to Teach Effectively —Part 1. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 236, to page 237, paragraph 2. Briefly demonstrate at least one of the points from the material.

10 min: Jehovah's Ears Listen to the Supplication of the Righteous. (1 Pet. 3:12) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook,* page 66, paragraphs 1-3; and pages 104-105. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

Song 6 and Prayer

WEEK STARTING MARCH 31

Song 105 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 5 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Exodus 1-6 (10 min.)

No. 1: Exodus 2:1-14 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Christ's Return Is Invisible—*rs* p. 341 ¶3–p. 342 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Abiram—Opposing God-Appointed Authority Is Tantamount to Opposing Jehovah —*it*-1 p. 25, Abiram No. 1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 63

10 min: "Make Good Use of Older Magazines." Discussion. Inform the congregation of older issues in stock that publishers can obtain for the ministry. Invite audience to relate experiences they have had using older magazines. Before concluding, invite the service overseer to report on the congregation's progress in distributing the Memorial invitations.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Matthew 28:20 and 2 Timothy 4:17 read. Consider how these verses can help us in our ministry.

Song 135 and Prayer

Make Good Use of Older Magazines

Since older magazines do not benefit anyone when they are stored or thrown away, we should try to place them. A single magazine can spark a person's interest in the truth and move him to begin calling on the name of Jehovah. (Rom. 10:13, 14) The following are some suggestions for putting older magazines to good use.

- When preaching in territories that are not worked frequently, perhaps you can leave one out of sight at not-at-homes.
- When engaging in public witnessing where people are waiting, such as at bus stops or train stations, ask individuals if they would like something to read, show them several older issues of the magazines, and let them choose.
- When visiting laundromats, nursing homes, clinics, or similar places that are within your congregation's territory, leave a few older issues in the waiting area. It is usually good to obtain permission first from the person in charge if he or she is present. If you see a supply of magazines already there, do not leave more.
- When preparing for return visits, consider the interests of each person you plan to visit. Does he have a family? Does he like to travel? Does he enjoy gardening? Look through older issues of the magazines to see if there is an article that he may enjoy reading, and show it to him when you return.
- When you find an interested person at home again after making repeated attempts to contact him, show him some of the older magazines that he missed.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 7

Song 15 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 5 ¶9-17 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Exodus 7-10 (10 min.)
No. 1: Exodus 9:20-35 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: In What Manner Will Jesus Return, and How Will Every Eye See Him?—*rs* p. 342 ¶4–p. 343 ¶5 (5 min.)
No. 3: Abishai—Be Loyal and Ready to Help Your Brothers—*it*-1 p. 26 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 124
10 min: Offer the Magazines During April. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered, using the two sample presentations on this page. Then analyze the sample presentations from beginning to end. Conclude by briefly encouraging all to become well-acquainted with the magazines and to share enthusiastically in offering them.
10 min: Do Not Forget Hospitality. (Heb. 13: 1, 2) Talk by an elder. Review local arrangements for the Memorial. Suggest ways that all can show hospitality to visitors and inactive publishers who will be in attendance. Have a brief two-part demonstration. First, show a publisher before the program begins welcoming someone who received an invitation during the campaign. Then, show the publisher after the program concludes making arrangements to follow up on the interest shown by the visitor.
10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Responding to Potential Conversation Stoppers." Ask the audience to relate good experiences.
Song 20 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **March and April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **May and June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or one of the following tracts: *How Do You View the Bible?, How Do You View the Future?, What Is the Key to Happy Family Life?, Who Really Controls the World?,* or *Will Suffering Ever End?*

■ The Memorial will be held on Monday, April 14, 2014. If your congregation normally has a meeting on Monday, it should be switched to another day of the week if the Kingdom Hall is available. If the Service Meeting must be canceled, the coordinator of the body of elders may make adjustments to the schedule so that parts that are particularly applicable to your congregation are considered during the month.

■ The title of the public talk to be given by the circuit overseer during the second half of the 2014 service year is "Rescue From World Distress."

Sample Presentations

For the Memorial Invitation Campaign

"We're distributing an invitation to a very important event. On April 14, millions around the world will gather to commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and hear a free Bible discourse about how his death benefits us. This invitation shows the location and time of the meeting being held in our community."

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM April 1

"We're visiting briefly to discuss something that most people have in common. Almost everyone, regardless of his religion, has prayed. Do you think that prayers are answered by God, or do you think they just make us feel better about our problems? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says about prayer. [Read 1 John 5:14.] This magazine explains how prayer benefits us."

Awake!® April

"We're here to provide help for a problem that is becoming all too common. Some people feel so overwhelmed by their situation in life that they have considered suicide. When a person is that distressed, do you think he really wishes to die, or do you think he just wants relief from his suffering? [Allow for response.] Here's a Bible promise that has helped many to maintain a positive viewpoint. [Read Revelation 21:3, 4.] This magazine outlines three good reasons for a person to keep on living despite his present problems."

Field Service Highlights

We are happy to report five new peaks in regular pioneers during the month of September 2013: 208 in the Bahamas, 84 in Bermuda, 34 in the British Virgin Islands, 3,151 in Puerto Rico, and 159,659 in the United States. This represents a total increase of 5,023 over the previous peaks. How Jehovah delights when we praise him with our "whole being"!—Ps. 103:22.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

APRIL 2014

WEEK STARTING APRIL 14

Song 114 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 5 ¶18-21, box on p. 55 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Exodus 11-14 (10 min.)
No. 1: Exodus 12:37-51 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: What Are Some Events Associated With the Presence of Christ?—*rs* p. 344 ¶1-5 (5 min.)
No.3: Abner—Those Who Live by the Sword Die by the Sword—*it*-1 pp. 27-28 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 100
15 min: Make Good Use of the *2014 Yearbook*. Discussion. Review "A Letter From the Governing Body." Arrange in advance for some to relate an experience from the *Yearbook* that has been encouraging to them. Invite audience to comment on outstanding aspects of the worldwide report. Conclude by encouraging all to complete their reading of the *Yearbook*.
15 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Being a Helpful Companion." Discussion. Have two brief demonstrations showing a companion who is not helpful. After each one, invite the audience to comment on how the companion could have handled the situation better.
Song 45 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Being a Helpful Companion

Why Important: Jesus recognized the value of preaching with a companion. So when he dispatched 70 of his disciples to go ahead of him and preach, he sent them out in pairs. (Luke 10:1) A companion can provide needed support if his fellow publisher encounters a difficult situation or is unsure of how to answer a householder. (Eccl. 4:9, 10) He can share his experience and occasionally offer a suggestion that may help the one with whom he is working become a more effective evangelizer. (Prov. 27:17) He can also encourage by means of his upbuilding conversation between doors.—Phil. 4:8.

How to Do It:

- Pay attention when your partner is giving a witness. (Jas. 1:19) When a scripture is read, follow along in your copy of the Bible. This will put you in a better position to assist if needed.
- Use good judgment to determine if and when you should join in the conversation. (Prov. 25:11) If you accompany another publisher on a Bible study, your occasional comments will likely be appreciated. However, when preaching from house to house, your service companion may prefer that you let him do the talking when it is his turn. Of course, if he is a new publisher or if he is not sure how to respond to a question or objection, he will likely appreciate your help. But whether you are accompanying a publisher in the house-to-house, return visit, or Bible study work, do not interrupt, take over the conversation, or introduce a different subject.
- Share your experience. If, on occasion, you can give the publisher with whom you are working a suggestion to help him be more effective in the ministry, do not hold back. (Prov. 3:27) At an appropriate time, you might begin by saying: "How do you think that went?" or "May I offer a suggestion?" or "Here's what I try to do." Keep in mind that while others appreciate receiving a suggestion *on occasion,* they will be discouraged if every mistake is called to their attention.

Try This During the Month:

- After working in the ministry with your field service partner, tell him what he said or did that made him a helpful companion.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 21

Song 132 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 6 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Exodus 15-18 (10 min.)
No. 1: Exodus 15:20–16:5 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why Christians Are Not Required to Keep the Sabbath—*rs* pp. 345-346 ¶3 (5 min.)
No. 3: Abortion—Life Is a Precious Gift From God—*it*-1 p. 28 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 27
10 min: "Congregate the People." Questions and answers.
10 min: "A Special Invitation." Questions and answers. Give all in attendance an invitation, if available, and discuss its contents. Inform the congregation when their campaign will begin, and outline local arrangements for covering the territory. Have a brief demonstration.
10 min: "Maintain Your Conduct Fine Among the Nations." Questions and answers. Also discuss applicable points from "2014 Convention Reminders" and the letter to all congregations dated August 3, 2013, regarding safety precautions when attending spiritual programs.
Song 125 and Prayer

"Congregate the People"

1 Shortly after leaving Egypt, Jehovah instructed Moses to "congregate the people" at Mount Sinai to hear His words so that they might fear Him and instruct their sons in His ways. (Deut. 4:10-13) What a memorable and faith-strengthening occasion that must have been! During the next few months, Jehovah's people will gather at district and international conventions to be instructed by Jehovah. What must we do in order to benefit to the full?

2 **"Be Ready":** Jehovah commanded the Israelites to "be ready" for that historic gathering at Mount Sinai. (Ex. 19:10, 11) Likewise, careful preparation is needed by all who will attend the conventions, not just by those who will have a part on the program. For example, many will need to arrange to take time off from their secular job. Perhaps your situation is similar to Nehemiah's. He wanted to leave his work as King Artaxerxes' cupbearer in order to go to Je-

1. District and international conventions have what similarities to a momentous gathering of the Israelites shortly after they left Egypt?
2. What must we do to "be ready" for our convention?

2014 Convention Reminders

■ **Program Times:** The doors to the building will open at 8:00 a.m. The introductory music will begin at 9:20 a.m. all three days. At that time, all of us should go to our seats so that the program can begin in a dignified manner. The closing song and prayer will be introduced at 4:55 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 3:50 p.m. on Sunday.

■ **International Conventions:** Some areas will host international conventions. Keep in mind that the branch office has invited specific congregations and foreign delegates after carefully calculating the number of seats, parking spaces, and hotel rooms available. Overcrowding may occur if publishers attend an international convention to which they have not been invited. If circumstances require you to attend a convention other than the one to which you are assigned, you should not choose an international convention.

■ **Parking:** At all convention sites where we control the parking, the spaces will be available at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking is usually limited, so carpooling should be done to the extent possible. Only those with a license plate or placard for the disabled will be allowed to park in the area reserved for such ones.

■ **Seat Saving:** When the doors to the facility are opened each morning, please do not rush to the seating area of your preference as if competing with fellow attenders. A self-sacrificing spirit that moves us to seek the

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rusalem and help rebuild its walls, but he knew that the king might not be agreeable. Nehemiah said a prayer and then courageously presented his graciously worded request. The king allowed him to leave and even gave support to the building project! (Neh. 2:1-9) In addition to requesting time off from your employer, have you confirmed your travel arrangements and accommodations? The elders will be happy to help any who may need assistance. Plan to arrive early for each session, and be ready to "pay more than the usual attention" to what you will hear.—Heb. 2:1.

3 Another important facet of our readiness involves preparing our heart so that we may listen and learn. (Ezra 7:10) The convention program will be posted in advance on the jw.org Web site and will list the titles for all the talks along with one or two key scriptures for each one. This provides excellent material to consider during our Family Worship evening in the weeks leading up to our assigned convention. Some publishers print out the program and use it for taking brief notes during the convention.

3. What will help us to prepare our heart for the program?

4 **'Teach Your Sons':** One of the stated purposes of the convention at Mount Sinai was for Israelite parents to "teach their sons." (Deut. 4: 10) The convention gives parents an excellent opportunity to do the same. Parents should have their children sit with them during the sessions and help them pay attention. At the end of each day and later during their family worship, families can discuss the program together.

5 The momentous convention at Mount Sinai helped the Israelites to appreciate their unique privilege of being God's people. (Deut. 4:7, 8) Our upcoming convention is designed to benefit us in a similar way. For three days we will be able to step out of the harsh wilderness of Satan's world and enjoy spiritual refreshment and upbuilding association in our spiritual paradise. (Isa. 35:7-9) With Jehovah's day drawing near, may we not forsake this opportunity to meet together for an interchange of encouragement!—Heb. 10:24, 25.

4. How can parents use the convention to teach their children?

5. How will we benefit from attending the upcoming convention?

good of others identifies us as true Christians and moves onlookers to praise God. (John 13: 34, 35; 1 Cor. 13:4, 5; 1 Pet. 2:12) Seats may be saved only for those living in your home or traveling in your vehicle or for your current Bible students. Special seating has been provided for the elderly and the infirm. Since this seating is limited, only one or two persons directly assisting the elderly or infirm individual may sit with him.

■ **Noon Meal:** Please bring a lunch rather than leave the convention site to obtain a meal during the noon break. A small cooler that can be placed *under* a seat may be used. Large family-size picnic coolers and glass containers are not permitted in the convention facility.

■ **Donations:** We can show our appreciation for the convention arrangements by making voluntary contributions to the worldwide work at the convention. Any checks should be made payable to "Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses." Donations can also be made by means of a debit or credit card.

■ **Medication:** If you require prescription medication, please be sure to bring an adequate supply with you, since none will be available at the convention. Diabetic syringes and needles must be disposed of properly as hazardous waste and not in trash receptacles at the convention facility or hotel.

■ **Safety Precautions:** Please be especially mindful of preventing potential injuries that can be caused by slipping and tripping. Each year injuries occur that are related to footwear, especially high-heeled shoes. It is best to choose modest, well-fitting shoes that will allow you to walk safely on ramps, stairs, gratings, and so forth.

■ **Hearing Impaired:** The program will be broadcast in the auditorium on an FM radio frequency. To hear it, you will need to bring a

A Special Invitation

[1] If you were planning a special meal for friends or family, one that required much effort and expense to prepare, you would likely be enthusiastic when extending invitations. Similarly, much work has gone into preparing the spiritual feast that will be presented at our 2014 district and international conventions. Beginning three weeks before the start of our convention, we will have the privilege of inviting others to attend. What will help us to extend the invitations with enthusiasm?

[2] We will be moved to have a full share in the campaign if we reflect appreciatively on how much we personally benefit from the spiritual banquet that Jehovah provides at our conventions. (Isa. 65:13, 14) We should remember, too, that our annual campaign yields results. Some people we invite will attend the convention with us. Regardless of how many respond, however, our diligent efforts during the campaign will bring praise to Jehovah and reflect his generosity.—Ps. 145:3, 7; Rev. 22:17.

[3] Each body of elders should determine how the congregation can give the invitations wide distribution, including whether to leave them at not-at-homes or offer them in public witnessing within the territory. On weekends the magazines should be offered along with the invitation when appropriate. If the first Saturday of the month falls within the dates of the campaign, emphasis should be placed on distributing invitations rather than on starting Bible studies. After the campaign concludes, how happy we will be to know that we participated enthusiastically and that we invited as many people as possible to join us at the spiritual banquet that Jehovah provided!

1. When will the invitation campaign for the 2014 conventions begin?
2. What will move us to have a full share in the campaign?
3. How will the invitations be distributed?

What Will You Say?

After giving a customary greeting, you might say: "We are involved in a global campaign to invite people to a very important event. The date, time, and address are printed on this invitation."

small battery-operated FM receiver with earphones.

■ **Baby Strollers and Lawn Chairs:** Baby strollers and lawn chairs should not be brought to the convention site. However, child-safety seats are acceptable if they can be secured in a seat next to the parents.

■ **Fragrances:** Most conventions take place in enclosed areas with mechanical ventilation. Therefore, it would be loving on our part to limit the use of strong fragrances, colognes, and perfumes that may cause reactions in people with respiratory or related problems.—1 Cor. 10:24.

■ ***Please Follow Up* (S-43) Forms:** A *Please Follow Up* form should be used to provide information regarding any interest found through informal witnessing during the convention. Completed forms may be submitted to the Book Room or given to your congregation secretary on your return home.

■ **Restaurants:** Honor Jehovah's name by your fine conduct at restaurants. Dress in a way that befits a Christian minister. Leave an appropriate tip if this is customary.

■ **Hotels:**

(1) Please do not reserve more rooms than you will actually use, and do not have more people stay in your room than what is allowed.

(2) Do not cancel your reservation except for an emergency situation, and notify the hotel as soon as it occurs so that others needing accommodations can use the room. (Matt. 5:37) If you do have to cancel your reservation, be sure to get a cancellation number. If you cancel a room less than 48 hours ahead of time, your deposit will not be refunded.

(3) Please note that if you use a debit or credit card when registering at a hotel, it is standard practice for the hotel to place a hold on funds in your account to cover your to-

"Maintain Your Conduct Fine Among the Nations"

[1] We attract the attention of the public during our conventions each year, so it is important that by our conduct we properly represent the God we worship. (Lev. 20:26) Our good manners as well as our dress and grooming should clearly identify us as Christ's true followers. As we attend the upcoming district or international conventions, how can we 'maintain our conduct fine among the nations' and thus give glory to our heavenly Father?—1 Pet. 2:12.

[2] **Display the Christian Personality:** The love we show toward one another and the way we deal with "those on the outside" stand in stark contrast to the dominant spirit of the world. (Col. 3:10; 4:5; 2 Tim. 3:1-5) We should be kind and patient when dealing with hotel personnel and restaurant workers, even if problems arise. Good manners also dictate that we leave the customary tip for those providing personal services.

[3] Parents should closely supervise their children at the convention site, in restaurants, and at the hotel. (Prov. 29:15) The manager of one hotel restaurant said to a couple: "We just love you people. Your families and your children are so well-mannered and polite. All the staff were talking, and we wish that you were staying here every weekend."

[4] **Modest Dress:** Our dress during the convention should be appropriate and modest, not reflecting the extreme styles common in the world. (1 Tim. 2:9) Even when checking in and out of the hotel and during times of leisure before and after the sessions, we want to avoid an overly casual or slovenly appearance. Thus we will be proud to wear our convention badge and not be embarrassed to give a witness when we have an opportunity. Our appearance and fine conduct while attending the upcoming conventions will not only attract honesthearted people to the Bible's life-saving message but it will also bring joy to Jehovah.—Zeph. 3:17.

1. Why is it important for us to maintain good conduct during the upcoming conventions?
2. What opportunities to display the Christian personality will we have during the convention?
3. What reminder is given to parents, and why?
4. While in the convention city, what attention should we give to our appearance?

tal room cost, plus any possible damages or incidentals during your stay. You will not be able to use any of those funds until your account is settled within a few days after you depart.

(4) Take a luggage cart only when you are ready to use it, and return it immediately so that others may use it.

(5) If it is the custom in your country, tip hotel workers when they carry your luggage, and leave a tip for the housekeeper.

(6) Cook only in rooms where cooking is permitted.

(7) Do not abuse any complimentary breakfast, coffee, or ice provisions that are made available for guests to consume while they are at the hotel by taking these items to the convention.

(8) At all times, display the fruitage of the spirit when dealing with the hotel staff. They are caring for a large number of guests and appreciate our kindness, patience, and reasonableness.

(9) Parents should supervise their children at all times around the hotel, including the elevators, swimming pool, lobby area, exercise room, and so forth.

(10) The room rate shown on the *Recommended Lodging List* is the full price per day, excluding tax. If you are overcharged, refuse these charges and inform the Rooming Department at the convention as soon as possible.

(11) If a problem arises with your hotel room, inform the Rooming Department while at the convention so that they can assist you.

■ **Volunteer Service:** Any who wish to volunteer should report to the Volunteer Service Department at the convention. Children under 16 years of age can also make a fine contribution by working under the direction of a parent, guardian, or other adult approved by a parent or guardian.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 28

Song 35 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 6 ¶9-15 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Exodus 19-22 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 113

***5 min:* Start a Bible Study on the First Saturday.** Talk. Outline local arrangements for field service on the first Saturday in May, and encourage all to have a share. Include a brief demonstration using the sample presentation on page 8.

***15 min:* "Exciting Design for New Tracts!"** Questions and answers. Include a two-part demonstration showing how to offer one of the new tracts from house to house and then how to continue the conversation when making a return visit on someone who showed interest.

10 min: "New Video for Starting Bible Studies." Talk. Play the video or its audio track for the audience. Invite audience to suggest other ways to use the video.

Song 75 and Prayer

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning April 28, 2014.

1. What enabled Joseph to flee from committing immorality with Potiphar's wife? (Gen. 39:7-12) [Mar. 3, *w13* 2/15 p. 4 par. 6; *w07* 10/15 p. 23 par. 16]
2. How is Joseph a good example for those who face injustice and adversities? (Gen. 41:14, 39, 40) [Mar. 10, *w04* 1/15 p. 29 par. 6; *w04* 6/1 p. 20 par. 4]
3. What basis was there for Joseph to extend mercy to his brothers? [Mar. 17, *w99* 1/1 p. 30 pars. 6-7]
4. How did the tribe of Benjamin eventually fulfill the prophecy at Genesis 49:27? [Mar. 24, *w12* 1/1 p. 29, box]
5. What does Exodus 3:7-10 teach us about Jehovah? [Mar. 31, *w09* 3/1 p. 15 pars. 3-6]
6. How did Jehovah live up to one aspect of the meaning of his name in the days of Moses? (Ex. 3:14, 15) [Mar. 31, *w13* 3/15 pp. 25-26 pars. 5-6]
7. According to Exodus 7:1, how was Moses made "like God to Pharaoh"? [Apr. 7, *w04* 3/15 p. 25 par. 7]
8. Despite witnessing Jehovah's saving power that delivered them from Egypt, what attitude did the Israelites later display, and what lesson can we learn? (Ex. 14:30, 31) [Apr. 14, *w12* 3/15 pp. 26-27 pars. 8-10]
9. Why does the expression "carry you on wings of eagles" appropriately express how Jehovah lovingly dealt with the young nation of Israel? (Ex. 19:4) [Apr. 28, *w96* 6/15 p. 10 par. 5–p. 11 par. 2]
10. How is it that Jehovah brings "punishment for the error of fathers" upon future generations? (Ex. 20:5) [Apr. 28, *w04* 3/15 p. 27 par. 1]

Exciting Design for New Tracts!

[1] Five new tracts were released at the 2013 "God's Word Is Truth!" District Conventions. Additionally, *Kingdom News* No. 38, entitled "Can the Dead Really Live Again?" has been added to the series of tracts. All six of these tracts have an exciting new design. What are the reasons for the new format? When we offer them from house to house, how can we make good use of their design features?

1. What items for the ministry have an exciting new design?

[2] **Why the New Design?:** Effective house-to-house presentations often include these four steps: (1) Ask a viewpoint question to start a conversation. (2) Share a thought from the Scriptures. (3) Offer literature for the householder to read. (4) Leave a question to answer next time, and make arrangements to return. The tracts' new design helps us easily to follow all four steps.

[3] **How to Use Them:** (1) After giving a greeting, show the householder the intriguing multiple-choice question on the front of the tract, and ask for his opinion. (2) Open the tract, and consider "What the Bible Says." Read the scripture directly from the Bible when circumstances allow. If the householder has time, discuss "What That Can Mean for You." (3) Offer the tract, and encourage him to read the rest at his convenience. (4) Before you leave, show him the question on the back under "To Think About" and make arrangements to discuss the Bible's answer next time.

2. What is the purpose of the new design?
3. How might we offer one of the new tracts in the ministry?

[4] The return visit is easy too. Simply use the cited scriptures on the back of the tract to answer the question you raised at the conclusion of your last visit. Before you leave, point out the picture of the *Good News* brochure, show the householder the brochure and the designated lesson that contains more information on the subject, and offer the brochure. If he accepts it, make arrangements to discuss the brochure on your next visit. You have started a Bible study! Or instead of offering the brochure, you could offer another tract and arrange to return to discuss it with the householder.

[5] Tracts have been used in our ministry for over 130 years. Although their size and format have varied, they have been a very effective witnessing tool. May we make good use of this new design to continue spreading Bible knowledge earth wide. —Prov. 15:7a.

4. How could we use the new tracts on the return visit?
5. What value do tracts have in our ministry?

New Video for Starting Bible Studies

A brief video entitled *Why Study the Bible?* is reaching a vast audience on jw.org. The video is designed to motivate interested people to accept our offer of a free Bible study. It can be accessed by selecting "Request a Bible Study" at the bottom of the home page or by scanning the QR (quick response) code printed on the back of each of our new tracts. Here are some ways that we can make good use of the video.

- When making a return visit, say to the householder: "May I show you a short video that explains how you can get answers to your Bible questions?" If he agrees, show him the video on your mobile device or on his own computer.
- If we place one of the new tracts while engaging in informal or public witnessing, point out the QR code and encourage the person to scan it with his mobile device. Since in many languages the QR code takes you directly to the video on our Web site, it may be possible to play the video on the spot using your mobile device.
- Tell coworkers, schoolmates, relatives, and other acquaintances about the video, and offer to show it to them. Or e-mail them a link to the video, and invite them to view it on their own.

By making use of this new provision, we may be able to start more Bible studies, spiritually assisting those who are "rightly disposed for everlasting life."—Acts 13:48.

WEEK STARTING MAY 5

Song 33 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 6 ¶16-21, box on p. 65 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Exodus 23-26 (10 min.)
No. 1: Exodus 25:1-22 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: There Is No Bible Record of Adam's Keeping a Sabbath Day
—*rs* p. 346 ¶4–p. 347 ¶2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Abraham—Abraham's Early History Is an Example of Faith—*it*-1 pp. 28-29 ¶3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 117
10 min: Offer the Magazines During May. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered, using the two sample presentations on this page. Then analyze the sample presentations from beginning to end. Conclude by briefly encouraging all to become well-acquainted with the magazines and to share enthusiastically in offering them.
10 min: Local needs.
10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited from the part "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Being a Helpful Companion." Ask the audience to relate good experiences.
Song 103 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **May and June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or one of the following tracts: *How Do You View the Bible?, How Do You View the Future?, What Is the Key to Happy Family Life?, Who Really Controls the World?,* or *Will Suffering Ever End?* **July:** Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.*

■ The meeting schedule for the week preceding your district or international convention should be adjusted in order to review counsel and reminders from the insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* and the letter to all congregations dated August 3, 2013, regarding safety precautions when attending spiritual programs. A month or two following your convention, a local needs part may be used to review specific convention points that the publishers have found to be helpful in the ministry.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in May

"We are making brief visits to discuss this intriguing question. [Show the first question on the back of the May 1 *Watchtower.*] What's your opinion?" Allow for response. Consider together the material under the question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM May 1

"We're visiting briefly because many people are interested in what the future holds. When you think about the future, how do you feel? Are you confident, or are you worried? [Allow for response. Then read one of the scriptures from the box "What God Has Revealed About the Future."] This magazine outlines some of the things that God says will happen and explains why we can be sure that they will occur."

Awake!® May

"We're making brief visits to help people manage their stress. Does it seem to you that people are more stressed today than they were in the past? [Allow for response.] Many have found that the practical advice found in the Bible helps them manage their stress. Here's one example. [Read Matthew 6:34.] This magazine explains how Bible principles can help us to manage four common causes of stress."

Note: This issue may be of special interest to businesspeople.

Field Service Highlights

We are pleased to report that during the month of October 2013 there were three new all-time peaks in regular pioneers: 161,892 in the United States, 3,198 in Puerto Rico, and 57 in the Turks and Caicos Islands. What a fine example these pioneers display in focusing on Kingdom interests!—Matt. 6:22.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MAY 2014

WEEK STARTING MAY 12

Song 49 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 7 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Exodus 27-29 (10 min.)
No. 1: Exodus 29:19-30 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Jesus Did Not Divide the Mosaic Law Into "Ceremonial" and "Moral" Parts—*rs* p. 347 ¶3–p. 348 ¶1 (5 min.)
No. 3: Abraham—Obedience, Unselfishness, and Courage Are Qualities That Please Jehovah —*it*-1 p. 29 ¶4-7 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 75
15 min: To It All the Nations Will Stream. (Isa. 2:2) Interview two publishers, one who has been in the truth for many years and one who is relatively new. What was it that interested them in the truth? What challenges did they have to overcome? What impressed them the first time they attended a congregation meeting? What do they remember about the first time they shared in the ministry? How did others in the congregation help them to make spiritual progress?
15 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry —Preparing Our Opening Words." Discussion. Have a brief two-part demonstration. First show an introduction that is not well-thought-out and then one that is well-prepared. Include pertinent points from pages 215-219 of the *Ministry School* book as time permits.
Song 117 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Preparing Our Opening Words

Why Important: If our introduction does not arouse interest, the householder may terminate the conversation before we can give a witness. Therefore, many publishers consider their opening words to be the most important part of their presentation. Although sample presentations are provided in *Our Kingdom Ministry* and the *Reasoning* book, they do not always include a complete introduction, in order to allow for flexibility. Even if a sample presentation is complete, publishers may choose to alter it or prepare their own. Thus, we will be more effective if we carefully prepare our opening words rather than say whatever comes to mind when the householder opens the door. —Prov. 15:28.

How to Do It:

- Choose your topic. It should be based on the literature you are offering and should be of interest to people in your territory.
- Carefully prepare the first sentence or two that you will say after giving a customary greeting. You might start by saying: "I am here because . . . ," "Many people are concerned about . . . ," "I would like to get your opinion on . . . ," or something else. Short, simple sentences usually work best. Some publishers choose to memorize their introduction.
- Formulate a viewpoint question that will draw the householder into the conversation. (Matt. 17:25) Remember that he was likely thinking about other matters before you arrived, so the question should not be too difficult or put him on the spot.

Try This During the Month:

- Set aside time during family worship to prepare and practice your opening words.
- When in the ministry, share what you plan to say with other publishers. (Prov. 27:17) Change your introduction if it is not effective.

WEEK STARTING MAY 19

Song 131 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 7 ¶9-17 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Exodus 30-33 (10 min.)
No. 1: Exodus 32:1-14 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: The Ten Commandments Came to an End With the Mosaic Law—*rs* p. 348 ¶2-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: Abraham—Have Faith in Jehovah's Promises—*it*-1 p. 30 ¶1–p. 31 ¶5 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 45
10 min: Why We Are Ministers of the Good News. Enthusiastic talk based on the *Organized* book, page 77 to page 78, paragraph 2. Invite comments from the audience on why they enjoy the ministry.
10 min: Can You Auxiliary Pioneer During Your Vacation? Discussion. Briefly review paragraph 1 on page 113 of the *Organized* book, outlining the requirements for auxiliary pioneers. Invite those who have auxiliary pioneered during their vacation from work or school to comment on the blessings they enjoyed. Encourage all to consider auxiliary pioneering during their next vacation.
10 min: "Cultivate the Habit of Being Punctual." Questions and answers. When considering paragraph 4, invite audience to comment on what helps them to be on time.
Song 44 and Prayer

Cultivate the Habit of Being Punctual

1 Jehovah is always on time. For instance, he gives his servants 'help at the right time.' (Heb. 4:16) He also dispenses spiritual "food at the proper time." (Matt. 24: 45) We can therefore be confident that the coming day of his anger "will not be late." (Hab. 2:3) How we benefit from Jehovah's punctuality! (Ps. 70:5) As busy, imperfect humans, however, being on time can be a real challenge for us. Why should we cultivate the habit of being punctual?

1. What example does Jehovah set regarding punctuality?

2 Punctuality has become the exception during these last days when many people are lovers of themselves and without self-control. (2 Tim. 3:1-3) So when Christians are punctual for work, appointments, and meetings, others take notice, and this brings honor to Jehovah. (1 Pet. 2:12) Do we usually begin secular work on time but find that we are often late for theocratic events? Being on time for Christian meetings, including the opening song and prayer, demonstrates a desire to imitate our orderly heavenly Father.—1 Cor. 14:33, 40.

3 Being punctual also shows consideration for others. (Phil. 2:3, 4) For example, when we are on time for Christian meetings, including meetings for field service, fellow worshippers are not unduly disturbed. On the other hand, if we are habitually late, it gives others the impression that we consider our time to be more valuable than theirs. Punctuality demonstrates reliability, diligence, and trustworthiness —qualities appreciated by those around us.

4 If you are often late, meditate on the reasons why. Organize yourself by making a realistic schedule that enables you to accomplish tasks at their appointed time. (Eccl. 3:1; Phil. 1:10) Ask Jehovah for help. (1 John 5:14) Being punctual is one way of showing appreciation for the two greatest commandments of the Law—to love God and to love our neighbor.—Matt. 22:37-39.

2. Why does punctuality bring honor to Jehovah?
3. Why does punctuality demonstrate consideration for others?
4. If we are often late, how can we make improvement?

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WEEK STARTING MAY 26

Song 60 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 7 ¶18-22, box on p. 75 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Exodus 34-37 (10 min.)
No. 1: Exodus 34:1-16 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why Moral Restraint Was Not Removed When the Ten Commandments Came to an End—*rs* p. 349 ¶1-2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Abraham—Abundant Blessings Should Not Make a Man of God Proud—*it*-1 p. 31 ¶6–p. 32 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 32

10 min: Start a Bible Study on the First Saturday. Discussion. Invite audience to relate experiences they had starting a Bible study on the first Saturday of the month. Demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in June, using the sample presentation on page 4. Encourage all to have a share.

10 min: Enduring Persecution Leads to a Fine Witness. (Luke 21:12, 13) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook,* page 124, paragraph 1; and page 128, paragraphs 1-2. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

10 min: Question Box. Discussion by an elder. Invite adults to comment on how they benefited from being taught deeper Bible truths by their parents.

Song 88 and Prayer

QUESTION BOX

■ What must children learn in order to grow to spiritual maturity?

Christian parents do much to bring their children up "in the discipline and instruction of Jehovah." (Eph. 6:4; ftn.) For example, parents have found it beneficial to consider the daily text with their children each morning. During family worship and on other occasions, families may watch and discuss a video together, talk about specific material from *Young People Ask* articles, reenact a Bible account, or have practice sessions. However, in order for children to "press on to maturity," they must also be taught deeper Bible truths.—Heb. 6:1.

Consider what we teach those we meet in our territory. On the initial call or on a subsequent visit, we generally endeavor to start a Bible study using *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* After completing that publication, we use *"Keep Yourselves in God's Love."* Why? The *Bible Teach* book gives students a basic knowledge of the Scriptures. The *"God's Love"* book teaches them how to apply Bible principles in everyday life. Consideration of both publications helps new ones to become "rooted" in Christ and "stabilized in the faith." (Col. 2:6, 7) Would this material not also benefit our children? They too need to be taught about the ransom, the Kingdom, and the condition of the dead. Children also need to know why God permits suffering and how to identify the last days of this system of things. They must be convinced that Jehovah's Witnesses have the truth. Young ones also need to understand Bible principles and how to train "their powers of discernment." (Heb. 5:14) Of course, parents must consider the age and comprehension level of their children. However, many children have the ability to begin learning deeper Bible truths even when they are quite young.—Luke 2:42, 46, 47.

To help parents, study guides that are based on the *Bible Teach* book will appear on jw.org. Families can find these on our Web site by looking under BIBLE TEACHINGS > TEENAGERS. In the future, additional study guides will be prepared based on the *"God's Love"* book. Of course, the printed version of these books can also be used. Parents can determine whether they will use this material during a portion of their Family Worship evening, when conducting a separate study with one of their children, or when training a child to do his own personal study.

WEEK STARTING JUNE 2

Song 134 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 8 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Exodus 38-40 (10 min.)

No. 1: Exodus 40:20-38 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What the Sabbath Means to Christians—*rs* p. 349; updated: *w11* 7/15 p. 28 ¶16-17 (5 min.)

No. 3: Abraham—The Historicity of Abraham in the Christian Greek Scriptures—*it*-1 p. 32 ¶2-3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 115

10 min: Offer the Magazines During June. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered, using the two sample presentations on this page. Then analyze the sample presentations from beginning to end. Conclude by briefly encouraging all to become well-acquainted with the magazines and to share enthusiastically in offering them.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Preparing Our Opening Words." Ask the audience to relate good experiences.

Song 44 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **May and June:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or one of the following tracts: *How Do You View the Bible?, How Do You View the Future?, What Is the Key to Happy Family Life?, Who Really Controls the World?,* or *Will Suffering Ever End?* **July:** Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **August:** Special campaign distribution of the tract to advertise the jw.org Web site.

■ Beneficiaries of a government program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) may apply to serve as temporary Bethel family members or temporary volunteers. When answering questions regarding citizenship on the application, these individuals should identify themselves as DACA beneficiaries.

■ As a reminder, each year the elders should review with the congregation pertinent points from the January 6, 2012, letter regarding disaster preparedness and response.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in June

"We are making brief visits to discuss this intriguing question." [Show the first question on the back of the June 1 *Watchtower.*] What's your opinion?" Allow for response. Consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM June 1

"Smoking kills about 6,000,000 people a year. Do you think anything can be done to slow down this epidemic? [Allow for response.] Many people have been helped to quit or to avoid smoking altogether by considering God's view of the matter. For example, this Bible verse has caused some to think about how smoking affects others. [Read 1 Corinthians 10:24.] This magazine explains how considering God's view of smoking can motivate a person to quit."

Awake!® June

"Social networks have made it possible for people to have more so-called friends than ever before. What would you say is the most important quality of a true friend? [Allow for response.] Here's an example of the practical advice on friendship that is found in the Bible. [Read James 1:19.] This magazine outlines four guiding principles that can help us be the kind of person others would want to have as a friend."

Field Service Highlights

As of February 1, 2014, the United States branch office began to oversee the territory and congregations in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. What unity among the more than 1.2 million publishers in the United States branch territory! This includes the 50 U.S. states, the Bahamas, Bermuda, the British and U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.—Ps. 133:1.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JUNE 2014

WEEK STARTING JUNE 9

Song 24 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 8 ¶9-16 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Leviticus 1-5 (10 min.)
No. 1: Leviticus 4:16-31 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Those Whom the Bible Refers to as "Saints"—*rs* p. 352 ¶1–p. 353 ¶1 (5 min.)
No. 3: Absalom—Physical Beauty, Pride, and Deceit Led to Ugly Events—*it*-1 pp. 32-33 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 2
15 min: Have You Tried It? Discussion. By means of a talk, briefly review information from these recent articles in *Our Kingdom Ministry:* "New Initiatives for Public Witnessing" (*km* 7/13), "Helping Those Who Are Not Yet Ready for the *Bible Teach* Book" (*km* 12/13), and "Magazine Routes—Useful for Starting Bible Studies" (*km* 1/14). Invite audience to comment on how they have benefited from applying the suggestions in these articles.
15 min: "August to Be a Historic Month of Activity!" Questions and answers by the service overseer. Distribute a copy of the new tract entitled *Where Can We Find Answers to Life's Big Questions?* and discuss its contents. Outline local arrangements for covering the territory.
Song 107 and Prayer

August to Be a Historic Month of Activity!

A New Tract Will Be Distributed Earth Wide

[1] The 100th anniversary of the birth of God's Kingdom is approaching. How appropriate it is that we honor Jehovah by means of a special campaign! During August we will engage in an earth-wide distribution of a new tract entitled *Where Can We Find Answers to Life's Big Questions?* This tract encourages readers to look to the Bible for the answers and explains how jw.org can help them.

[2] **Loud Shout of Praise:** To help publishers expand their ministry, a special provision has been made for any who wish to auxiliary pioneer in the month of August. During that month, baptized publishers will be allowed to auxiliary pioneer with a 30-hour requirement. Since August has five Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, many publishers who work secularly or go to school during the week will be able to auxiliary pioneer. If you have a progressive Bible student or a child who would like to become a publisher, speak to the coordinator of the body of elders right away. How encouraging it would be for such ones to join us as publishers during this momentous month! Although many regular pioneers take vacation during August after fulfilling their yearly hour requirement, it may be possible for them to adjust their schedule in order to have a full share in this special campaign. Now is the time for families to discuss how they will contribute to the "loud shout of praise to Jehovah" that will go up during August.—Ezra 3:11; Prov. 15:22.

[3] Although we have engaged in similar campaigns in the past, we hope that this one will be historic. Can we reach new peaks in hours, publishers, and auxiliary pioneers during August? As we end the 2014 service year, may Jehovah bless the efforts of his people earth wide to make the month of August the greatest witnessing month ever!—Matt. 24:14.

1. What special campaign will be held earth wide as we approach the 100th anniversary of the Kingdom?

2. How can we contribute to the "loud shout of praise to Jehovah" that will go up during August?

3. What is the hope regarding this special campaign?

WEEK STARTING JUNE 16

Song 111 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 8 ¶17-24, box on p. 86 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Leviticus 6-9 (10 min.)
No. 1: Leviticus 8:18-30 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why We Do Not Pray to "Saints" —*rs* p. 353 ¶2-4 (5 min.)
No. 3: Absalom—Put Away All Selfish Ambition and Hypocrisy—*it*-1 p. 33 ¶2–p. 35 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 37
30 min: "Remember Those in Nursing Homes." Questions and answers. When considering paragraph 4, have a brief demonstration showing two qualified publishers meeting with a director of activities to inquire about having a group study at the facility.
Song 90 and Prayer

Remember Those in Nursing Homes

1 Many people are facing the debilitating effects of advancing age. (Eccl. 12:1-7) Some older ones live in nursing homes, so it is not always possible for us to reach them through house-to-house preaching. This is true even in lands where aging parents traditionally move in with their children or other relatives. Although perhaps limited in mobility or memory, elderly ones and others who live in nursing homes may still be able to learn about, appreciate, and come to love Jehovah. How can we reach out to share the good news of "the happy hope" with them?—Titus 2:13.

1. Why is there a need to reach those in nursing homes with the good news?

2 **Getting Started:** Usually a list of nursing-care facilities can be compiled by searching the local telephone directory. Check categories such as "nursing homes," "group homes," and "residential-care facilities." The service overseer can take the lead in arranging for qualified publishers to visit each facility. With good planning and reliance on Jehovah, it is often possible to start a group Bible study.—Prov. 21:5; 1 John 5: 14, 15.

3 The manner in which the study is introduced depends on the type of facility. In large facilities with many residents and staff members, it is best to approach the receptionist and ask to speak with the director of activities. In small group homes for seniors—homes with a few residents and two or three caregivers—it may be best to schedule a time to speak directly with the owner of the home.

4 In either situation, explain that you are volunteering your time to encourage individuals who enjoy reading and discussing Bible accounts. Ask if there are any residents who might like to participate in a group Bible discussion for about 30 minutes a week. A variety of publications can be used, but many find that *My Book of Bible Stories* and *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived* are well received. You may wish to show the publications to the director. The day, time, and meeting room location can be worked out with him or her and will typically be posted on an activities calendar in the nursing home. Do not shy away from identifying yourself as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. At the same time, help the di-

2. How can we compile a list of nursing-care facilities to visit?

3, 4. (a) Whom should we approach to introduce the group study? (b) How might we outline the study arrangement?

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rector to understand that you would not be coming to conduct a religious service but, rather, to promote Bible education.

[5] **Conducting the Study:** How you conduct the study depends on the circumstances and environment at the facility, so be flexible and discerning. The conductor should bring several copies of the publication being considered and should collect them at the end of the study. It may be necessary to bring enlarged copies of the material for some. Paragraphs can be read, questions can be asked, and responses can be given in our usual manner. Those willing and capable may be invited to read the paragraphs or Bible passages. During the study, be engaging, positive, and friendly. With the permission of the director, you can occasionally show one of the organization's videos that builds faith in the Bible or highlights lessons from a particular Bible account. It may be possible to open and close the study with a simple prayer. Some publishers have even introduced Kingdom songs.

[6] What if a resident objects to something that is read or stated during the study? Use discernment when you reply. (Col. 4:6) Perhaps you can share a brief Bible text that clearly addresses his concern. If it is not practical for you to do so, then it would be best to acknowledge his comment and offer to consider the matter with him separately after the study.

[7] On occasion, a resident may ask a question or express a desire to learn more. One sister uses this approach: "That's a very good question. But since that is your personal question, let's wait until the end of our reading. Then you and I can discuss it together." It is often possible to arrange to conduct a personal Bible study with interested ones at another time and in a different setting.

[8] It is usually best for the same Witnesses to conduct the group study at the facility each time. Any publishers who participate may count the time. Once the study is established, the publisher taking the lead may count one return visit every time the group study is conducted and one Bible study each month. Bible studies that are started with individual residents who are able to understand and learn may be counted in the usual way.

[9] **Keeping It Going:** It is best to have a set day and time for the group study. The residents and staff will expect it to be held regularly and to start and end on time. (Matt. 5:37) Therefore, commitment, diligence, and orderliness are required. Experience has shown that it is best if two qualified publishers work together to conduct the group study. (Eccl. 4:9, 10) In large facilities, more publishers might be needed.

[10] Friendliness and personal interest are also important. (Phil. 2:4) On the first visit, take time to meet each resident who attends. Make note of and try to memorize their names before the next study. However, some older people are offended if someone they do not know addresses them by their first name. Patience and compassion will make everyone feel welcome and appreciated.

[11] It is also essential to demonstrate respect for and show kindness to the facility staff and family members of the residents. Once the study arrangement is set, it is wise

5. What practical suggestions will make the study enjoyable and beneficial?
6. How might an objection be handled?
7. What can you do if a resident has a personal question or shows exceptional interest?
8. How should group studies and any personal Bible studies that result be counted?
9, 10. What qualities are necessary for those involved in this work? Explain.
11. How can those conducting the group study show respect for the staff and family members of the residents?

not to change the time or format without first discussing it with the director. From time to time, ask the director for input on how the study is going. When family members visit during the study, take the initiative to meet them. Explain to them the purpose of the Bible study activity. Reassure them of your sincere interest in their family member. Invite them to sit in and listen to the study.

[12] **Results:** Traveling overseers and congregations report encouraging results from this avenue of service. In one case, about 20 residents attended the first discussion. This led to individual Bible studies with six residents. One was eventually baptized. A study in another home motivated an 85-year-old woman to associate with the local congregation and express her desire to be baptized. When one facility decided to consolidate its activities—eliminating the group study conducted by Jehovah's Witnesses—the residents complained to the facility director! Eventually the study was started again and thereafter between 25 and 30 people attended.

[13] The love we show to those in nursing homes leaves a deep impression on more than just the residents. For example, it is not unusual for staff members to sit in on and even participate in the study. The effort we put forth to show personal interest to those in nursing homes also gives a favorable witness to the community. (1 Pet. 2:12) After being told the purpose of the study, one administrator said: "What took you so long? When can you start?" Another director wrote: "I would heartily recommend this group study to any nursing-care facility in the area. Jehovah's Witnesses provide this free service as part of their ministerial work in the community." One nursing home in Hawaii gave Jehovah's Witnesses a Volunteer Service Award that described the volunteers as a "priceless treasure" to those in that facility.

[14] The elderly are invited by Jehovah to praise him. (Ps. 148:12, 13) That invitation includes those in nursing homes. Are there nursing homes within your territory where elderly ones would benefit from hearing the good news? With the help of the local elders and the nursing-home directors, we may be able to give a good witness to those in nursing homes. When we remember those of advancing years, we imitate Jehovah.—Ps. 71:9, 18.

12, 13. Relate experiences illustrating the benefits of witnessing in nursing homes.

14. Why should we want to reach out to assist those in nursing homes?

Group Discussions at a Nursing Home

- Check in with the receptionist and director of activities when you arrive for the scheduled session.
- Bring enough copies of the study publication for the group. Carry the publications in a dignified bag, and collect them following the study.
- Be relaxed, friendly, and outgoing. Use the residents' names.
- Read and discuss one paragraph at a time.
- Use short questions. Warmly commend all for their comments.
- Defer doctrinal or controversial questions to a time and setting where they can be considered privately with the inquirer.
- Answer questions from staff and family members in a simple, direct manner.
- Take advantage of opportunities to start personal Bible studies with residents, relatives, and staff members.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JULY 2014

WEEK STARTING JULY 14

Song 1 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 10 ¶1-7 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Leviticus 21-24 (10 min.)

No. 1: Leviticus 23:1-14 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Universal Salvation Is Not Scriptural—*rs* p. 356 ¶3 (5 min.)

No. 3: Acceptable Time—Use Wisely the Opportune Season for God's Favor—*it*-1 pp. 37-38 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 45

10 min: Get Ready for the Special Campaign in August. Distribute a copy of the new tract *Where Can We Find Answers to Life's Big Questions?* to anyone who does not have a copy. Using the sample presentation on page 4, have two demonstrations. First show how the tract will be offered to most householders. Then demonstrate how it may be offered when the householder shows interest or desires to talk. Encourage all to have a full share in the campaign.

***5* min: Benefit From *Examining the Scriptures Daily*.** Discussion. Invite the audience to comment on when they consider the text each day and how their use of *Examining the Scriptures Daily* has benefited them.

15 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Initiating a Conversation in Order to Witness Informally." Discussion. Include a demonstration.

Song 107 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Initiating a Conversation in Order to Witness Informally

Why Important: When sharing in the house-to-house ministry, we often find that many people are not at home. However, we may come in contact with them when using public transportation, when waiting in a doctor's office, when taking a break at work or at school, and so forth. It is Jehovah's will that everyone has an opportunity to hear the Kingdom message. (1 Tim. 2:3, 4) Often, in order to give a witness, we must take the initiative to start a conversation.

How to Do It:

- Be selective. Does the person seem friendly and willing to talk? Do the circumstances allow for relaxed conversation? Some publishers first make eye contact with the person and then smile. If the person smiles back, they try to start a conversation.
- Say a brief, silent prayer if you lack the courage to speak.—Neh. 2:4; Acts 4:29.
- Start with a simple comment, perhaps a greeting. Jesus did not begin his conversation with the Samaritan woman by talking about the Kingdom. (John 4:7) Sometimes a conversation can be initiated by giving commendation: "Your children are so well-behaved!" Asking a question is another possible conversation starter: "Did you see that news report last night?"
- Once the conversation has started, look for an opportunity to introduce the good news, but do not be in a hurry. Allow the conversation to develop naturally. Perhaps you can make a statement that arouses the person's curiosity and prompts an inquiry. For example, if the conversation is about family matters, you might say, "I found some *reliable* advice on raising children." If you are discussing a news item, you could say, "I recently enjoyed reading some *good* news for a change." Do not be discouraged if the conversation ends before you can give a witness.
- Carry tracts or other literature that you can give to someone who shows interest.

Try This During the Month:

- Each week try to start at least one conversation with the goal of witnessing informally.

WEEK STARTING JULY 21

Song 73 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 10 ¶8-17 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Leviticus 25-27 (10 min.)
No. 1: Leviticus 26:1-17 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Will All Humans Eventually Be Saved?—*rs* p. 357 ¶1 (5 min.)
No. 3: Accident, Accidental—Ways in Which the Scriptures Differentiate Between Accidental and Intentional Occurrences—*it*-1 p. 38 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 67
10 min: Respected for Our Good Conduct and Christian Neutrality. Discussion based on the *2014 Yearbook,* pages 120 and 149. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
10 min: Will You Auxiliary Pioneer in August? Talk. Interview two or three publishers who plan to auxiliary pioneer in August despite being infirm or having a busy schedule. What adjustments are they making in order to auxiliary pioneer? Invite the service overseer to review the arrangements for the meetings for field service during August.
10 min: "How Do I Appear to Jehovah?" Questions and answers.
Song 65 and Prayer

How Do I Appear to Jehovah?

1 How often do you look into a mirror? Most of us do so daily because this helps us see aspects of our physical appearance that need attention. The Bible has been likened to a mirror. Reading God's Word enables us to see our inner self, the person whom Jehovah sees. (1 Sam. 16:7; Jas. 1:22-24) God's Word can "discern thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Heb. 4:12) How can reading and meditating on the Bible every day help us to see areas that we should strengthen in order to be more successful evangelizers? —Ps. 1:1-3.

1. How is the Bible like a mirror?

2 **Use the Bible as a Mirror:** Bible accounts of faithful servants of Jehovah teach us what qualities are beautiful to him. For example, David demonstrated zeal for God's name. (1 Sam. 17:45, 46) Isaiah courageously volunteered to preach in difficult territory. (Isa. 6:8, 9) Jesus' deep love for his heavenly Father caused him to view the ministry as a source of refreshment and satisfaction rather than an unpleasant burden. (John 4:34) First-century Christians preached with zeal, relied on Jehovah, and were determined not to give up. (Acts 5:41, 42; 2 Cor. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:17) Meditating on such examples helps us to look at ourselves with the objective of improving the quality of our sacred service.

3 **Act to Correct Defects:** Of course, it does us no good to look in a mirror and then ignore a defect. We can ask Jehovah to help us see ourselves objectively and then to help us make needed adjustments. (Ps. 139:23, 24; Luke 11:13) Because the time left is reduced and lives are involved, we must not procrastinate about making necessary changes.—1 Cor. 7:29; 1 Tim. 4:16.

4 A person's inner self—what Jehovah takes note of—is far more important than his outward appearance. (1 Pet. 3:3, 4) What happens to the man who peers into God's Word and then *acts on* what he discovers? He "has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work; and he will be happy in what he does." (Jas. 1:25) Yes, we will be happy and effective ministers because we "reflect like mirrors the glory of Jehovah."—2 Cor. 3:18.

2. How can the Bible help us to make a self-examination?
3. Why should we not procrastinate in making needed adjustments?
4. What happens to the man who peers into God's Word and acts on what he discovers?

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WEEK STARTING JULY 28

Song 58 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 10 ¶18-21, box on p. 106 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Numbers 1-3 (10 min.)
No. 1: Numbers 3:21-38 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: "All Sorts of Men" Will Be Saved—*rs* p. 357 ¶2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Accusation—How Were Accusations Handled Under Hebrew and Roman Law?—*it*-1 p. 39 ¶4-8 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 89
10 min: Are You Prepared for the New School Year? Discussion. Invite audience to outline some of the challenges Christian youths face at school. Explain how parents can use our Web site and other theocratic tools to prepare their children. (1 Pet. 3:15) Choose one or two common challenges, and relate some of the helpful information provided by the organization. Invite audience to comment on how they were able to give a witness while at school.
10 min: Interview the Secretary. What does caring for your assignment involve? How can group overseers and publishers help you to compile a congregation service report that is accurate and on time? How does an accurate report help the elders, the circuit overseer, and the branch office to provide needed encouragement?
10 min: "Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Zephaniah." Questions and answers.
Song 70 and Prayer

Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Zephaniah

[1] It was the mid-seventh century B.C.E., and Baal worship was being openly practiced in Judah. Bad King Amon had recently been murdered, and now young King Josiah was reigning. (2 Chron. 33:21–34:1) During that time, Jehovah raised up Zephaniah to declare His judgment message. Although Zephaniah may have been a member of Judah's royal house, he did not water down Jehovah's message of condemnation to Judah's leadership. (Zeph. 1:1; 3:1-4) Similarly, we strive to imitate Zephaniah's courage and avoid allowing family ties to impact our worship of Jehovah in a negative way. (Matt. 10:34-37) What message did Zephaniah declare, and with what results?

[2] **Seek Jehovah:** Only Jehovah can save individuals in the day of his anger. Thus, Zephaniah urged the people of Judah to seek Jehovah, seek righteousness, and seek meekness while time still remained. (Zeph. 2:2, 3) The same is true in our day. Like Zephaniah, we encourage others to seek Jehovah, but we too must act, being determined never to "turn away from following Jehovah." (Zeph. 1:6) Rather, we seek Jehovah by carefully studying his Word and by praying for his guidance. We seek righteousness by living a morally clean life. We seek meekness by cultivating a submissive attitude and by readily responding to direction from Jehovah's organization.

[3] **Positive Results:** Zephaniah's judgment message struck a responsive chord with at least some in Judah but likely most notably with young Josiah, who started to search for Jehovah while he was still a boy. Josiah later carried out a vigorous campaign against idolatry in the land. (2 Chron. 34:2-5) Today, although some Kingdom seed falls alongside the road, on rocky ground, or among the thorns, some also falls on the fine soil and yields fruit. (Matt. 13:18-23) We are confident that Jehovah will continue to bless our efforts as we stay busy spreading Kingdom seed.—Ps. 126:6.

[4] Some in Judah felt that Jehovah would never act. However, Jehovah assured all that his great day was near. (Zeph. 1:12, 14) Salvation would come only to those who took refuge in him. (Zeph. 3:12, 17) As we 'keep ourselves in expectation of Jehovah,' may we find delight in serving unitedly with fellow worshippers of our great God!—Zeph. 3:8, 9.

1. In what setting did Zephaniah serve as a prophet, and how is he a good example for us today?
2. What action must we take to be concealed in the day of Jehovah's anger?
3. Why should we maintain a positive attitude in the ministry?
4. Why should we 'keep ourselves in expectation of Jehovah'?

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 4

Song 51 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 11 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Numbers 4-6 (10 min.)
No. 1: Numbers 4:17-33 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Does the Bible Say That Some Will Never Be Saved?—*rs* p. 358 ¶1-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: Accusation—Jehovah Overrules Bad Laws, and He Judges Those Who Make False Accusations—*it*-1 p. 39 ¶9–p. 40 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 85
10 min: Offer the Magazines During August. Discussion. Using the sample presentations on this page, demonstrate how the magazines may be offered to someone when engaging in the special campaign on the weekends. Then invite comments from the audience on these questions: Why should we offer the magazines on the weekends in August when it is appropriate to do so? What are some occasions when this would be appropriate?
10 min: Local needs.
10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Initiating a Conversation in Order to Witness Informally." Ask the audience to relate good experiences.
Song 75 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **July:** Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!*, *Listen to God*, or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **August:** Special campaign distribution of a new tract to advertise the jw.org Web site. **September and October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines.

■ Since August has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Field Service Highlights

Harbor witnessing is established in 38 major ports in the United States. In January 2014, the harbor witnessing groups in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Seattle reported that 98 brothers visited 274 cargo ships. They placed 1,349 books, 289 magazines, and 2,110 brochures. They also conducted 75 Bible studies. Truly, merchants, shepherds, and traders are part of the expansion of Jehovah's organization!—Isa. 60:6-9.

Sample Presentations

Where Can We Find Answers to Life's Big Questions?

Hand the tract to the householder so that he can see the title and say: "Hello. We are sharing in a worldwide campaign to distribute this important message. This is your copy."

If you are leaving the tract at not-at-homes, place it out of sight and avoid folding it unnecessarily.

If the householder expresses interest or desires to talk, you might ask his opinion on the multiple-choice question on the front. Open the tract, and show him what Psalm 119:144, 160 says. Explain that the tract contains information about a Web site that can help him find satisfying answers in the Bible. Perhaps you can show him a sample by playing the video *Why Study the Bible?* Before you leave, point out the three questions on the back page of the tract and ask which one concerns him the most. Offer to return so that you can show him how to find the Bible's answer to that question by using jw.org. When you return, discuss the answer by looking under BIBLE TEACHINGS > BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

If you are also distributing invitations to your regional convention, hand the householder the invitation at the same time you give him the tract and add, "In addition, we have given you an invitation to an upcoming free public event."

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM August 1

On weekends, when appropriate, say this to feature *The Watchtower:* "We would also like to offer you our current magazines. This issue of *The Watchtower* answers the question, Is God interested in you?"

Awake!® August

On weekends, when appropriate, say this to feature the *Awake!* magazine: "We would also like to offer you our current magazines. This issue of *Awake!* answers the question, How can people make peace?"

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

AUGUST 2014

1914-2014
One Hundred Years of Kingdom Rule!

In 1922, J.F. Rutherford boldly proclaimed: "Behold, the King reigns! . . . Advertise, the King and his kingdom." In this 100th year of Kingdom rule, his exclamation still fills us with excitement. Let us exert ourselves to make this August a historic month by helping others to learn about the Kingdom through our Web site!

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 11

Song 71 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 11 ¶9-16 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Numbers 7-9 (10 min.)
No. 1: Numbers 9:9-23 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Once Saved Does Not Mean Always Saved—*rs* p. 358 ¶4–p. 359 ¶1 (5 min.)
No. 3: Achan—Robbing God Brings Dire Consequences—*it*-1 p. 41 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 107
***5 min:* "1914-2014: One Hundred Years of Kingdom Rule!"** Discussion. Have the paragraph at the top of this page read. Service Meeting parts this month will highlight the Kingdom. Review local arrangements for field service.
10 min: "Use the New *Web Site* Tract." Discuss the contents of the tract. Have a demonstration of a publisher offering the tract and then using his electronic device to direct a person to jw.org.
15 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Confidently Speaking Up About the Kingdom." Discussion. Have two publishers demonstrate the following scenario: Publisher is in line at a store. Person beside him looks at a news magazine and says: "This world is a mess! Everyone thinks that he has the answers, but things just get worse." Publisher soliloquizes: 'I should say something. I must speak up and tell him about the Kingdom!' Publisher says: "I know—more bad news. But may I give you this tract? The Web site that it features has really helped me to find the answers to many of life's big questions." Publisher highlights one point from the tract, and the person expresses interest.
Song 92 and Prayer

Use the New *Web Site* Tract

The tract is entitled *Where Can We Find Answers to Life's Big Questions?* Three questions are raised on the back of the tract. When an opportunity arises, ask a person which question interests him the most and direct him to BIBLE TEACHINGS > BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED on the Web site to find the answer. There he will also find answers to the questions: What is the Kingdom of God? And what will God's Kingdom accomplish?

Keep copies of this tract on hand to help people learn what the Bible says about our wonderful future under God's Kingdom.

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Confidently Speaking Up About the Kingdom

Why Important: If we are to follow the clear direction given at 2 Timothy 1:7, 8, it is important that we confidently speak up about the Kingdom. How can we gain confidence to advertise the Kingdom?

How to Do It:

- Have empathy for people. (Phil. 2:4) Many are distressed over world conditions or personal problems. Our having empathy motivates us to tell them about the Kingdom.
- Before leaving the house, take a few tracts with you.

Try This During the Month:

- Choose a person to whom you would like to witness. Pray to Jehovah for courage and the opportunity to speak up.

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 18

Song 78 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 11 ¶17-22, box on p. 116 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Numbers 10-13 (10 min.)
No. 1: Numbers 10:1-16 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why Faith Must Have Works—*rs* p. 359 ¶2-5 (5 min.)
No. 3: Acts of Apostles—The Spectacular Beginning and Development of the Christian Organization—*it*-1 pp. 42-43 ¶2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 74
15 min: "A Century of Advertising the Kingdom!"—Part 1. (Paragraphs 1-3) Discussion based on the first three paragraphs and the *Proclaimers* book, pages 259-260. After asking the question for paragraph 3, interview two publishers who are longtime Witnesses. Have them share some experiences about the preaching work when they first became publishers.
15 min: "A Century of Advertising the Kingdom!"—Part 2. (Paragraphs 4-6) Questions and answers. When covering paragraphs 5 and 6, interview two pioneers about how they have made room for full-time service.
Song 103 and Prayer

A Century of Advertising the Kingdom!

1 "Behold, the King reigns! You are his publicity agents. Therefore advertise, advertise, advertise, the King and his kingdom." With those stirring words spoken by Brother Rutherford nearly a century ago, Jehovah's people were encouraged to broadcast the Kingdom message far and wide. And that is what we have done! Like the early Christians, we have preached the good news of the Kingdom "in all creation under heaven." (Col. 1:23) Looking back over the last century, what have we done to advertise God's Kingdom? How can we continue to advertise it as we approach the 100th anniversary of the Kingdom's birth?

1. What were Jehovah's people encouraged to do nearly a century ago?

2 **Looking Back:** For decades, our *literature* has promoted God's Kingdom. Since 1939 our principal magazine has had as its title: *The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom*. This magazine frequently discusses the Kingdom and what it will accomplish. The *Awake!* magazine also highlights God's Kingdom as the only hope for mankind. How fitting that these two magazines are now the most widely translated and distributed magazines in the world!—Rev. 14:6.

3 Jehovah's people have employed various *methods* to advertise the Kingdom. In the early days, we made use of sound cars, radio broadcasts, and portable phonographs. Those methods helped us to spread the good news to a wide audience at a time when there were relatively few Kingdom proclaimers. (Ps. 19:4) In recent years, we have published information on jw.org, thus proclaiming the Kingdom to millions—including those who live in lands where our work is restricted.

4 Jehovah's people have also engaged in *special initiatives* to spread the Kingdom message. For example, beginning in the mid-1990's, we made an effort to augment our house-to-house work by witnessing in public parks, in parking lots, and at businesses. Recently, we have organized special metropolitan public witnessing in large cities around the world. In addition, many congregations are participating in public witnessing in their local territory by using literature carts and tables that are set up near high-traffic areas. Of course, we keep the house-to-house work as the mainstay of our Kingdom-preaching activity.—Acts 20:20.

5 **Looking Ahead:** With the start of the new service year in September, many will begin serving as regular pioneers. Could you join

2. How has our literature promoted God's Kingdom?
3. What are some of the methods we have employed to advertise the Kingdom?
4. What special initiatives have we engaged in?
5. What opportunities will the new service year offer for many of us?

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them? If not, can you enroll as an auxiliary pioneer from time to time? Whether you are able to pioneer or not, Jehovah will surely bless you for any sacrifices you make in order to have a full share in advertising the Kingdom.—Mal. 3:10.

[6] The month of October 2014 will mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Kingdom. Fittingly, the public edition of *The Watchtower* that month focuses on God's Kingdom. Why not make an effort to get this issue into the hands of as many as possible? As we look to the future, may each of us continue "declaring the good news of the Kingdom of God" to all who will listen.—Acts 8:12.

6. Why will the month of October 2014 be special?

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 25

Song 112 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 12 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Numbers 14-16 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 96
***5 min:* Local Experiences.** Have one or two experiences reenacted that show a publisher confidently speaking up about the Kingdom. Briefly discuss Hebrews 6:11, 12, emphasizing the importance of being industrious when it comes to advertising the Kingdom.
10 min: Explaining the Kingdom—Part 1. Talk by an elder based on the *Ministry School* book, page 280, paragraphs 1-4.
15 min: Explaining the Kingdom—Part 2. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 280, paragraph 5, to page 281, paragraph 1. Include a demonstration of a publisher reasoning with a person to prove that the Kingdom is a real government.
Song 101 and Prayer

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning August 25, 2014.

1. How can Leviticus 18:3 help us to avoid developing a twisted sense of right and wrong? (Eph. 4:17-19) [July 7, *w02* 2/1 p. 29 par. 4]
2. What does the command at Leviticus 19:2 teach us, and why should we strive to obey it? [July 7, *w09* 7/1 p. 9 par. 5]
3. What does the principle behind the ancient law on gleaning teach us today? (Lev. 19:9, 10) [July 7, *w06* 6/15 pp. 22-23 par. 13]
4. Why can it be said that the law of "eye for eye" did not promote personal revenge? (Lev. 24:19, 20) [July 14, *w09* 9/1 p. 22 pars. 3-4]
5. Under what circumstances would it be wrong for an Israelite to charge interest on a loan, but when would the charging of interest be allowed? (Lev. 25:35-37) [July 21, *w04* 5/15 p. 24 par. 3]
6. Why is reference generally made to the 12 tribes of Israel when there were actually 13? (Num. 1:49, 50) [July 28, *w08* 7/1 p. 21]
7. What lesson regarding showing consideration to older ones can we glean from the account about Levite compulsory service recorded at Numbers 8:25, 26? [Aug. 11, *w04* 8/1 p. 25 par. 1]
8. After their miraculous exodus from Egypt, why did the Israelites develop a complaining spirit, and what vital lesson can we learn from this account? (Num. 11:4-6) [Aug. 18, *w95* 3/1 pp. 15-16 par. 10]
9. What can we learn from the way that Moses responded when Eldad and Medad began acting as prophets? (Num. 11:27-29) [Aug. 18, *w04* 8/1 p. 26 par. 4]
10. What valuable principle can we learn from the command given to the Israelites to "make for themselves fringed edges on the skirts of their garments"? (Num. 15:37-39) [Aug. 25, *w04* 8/1 p. 26 par. 7]

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 1

Song 46 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 12 ¶9-15 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Numbers 17-21 (10 min.)

No. 1: Numbers 17:1-13 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: How We Know That There Really Is a Devil—*rs* p. 361 ¶2–p. 362 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Acts of Apostles—The Accuracy of the Book of Acts—*it*-1 p. 43 ¶3–p. 44 ¶2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 98

10 min: Offer the Magazines During September. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered using the sample presentations on this page. Then analyze each sample presentation from beginning to end.

10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited from the part "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Confidently Speaking Up About the Kingdom." Ask the audience to relate personal experiences about the challenges of speaking up about the Kingdom. How were they able to overcome such challenges?

10 min: Report on Our Special Campaign. Talk by the service overseer. Summarize main points from this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* concerning the need to continue advertising the Kingdom. How did the congregation respond to this direction? What were some of the highlights of the work accomplished during the campaign?

Song 45 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **August:** Special campaign distribution of the tract to advertise the jw.org Web site. **September and October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **November:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?*

■ Groups of 20 or more planning to visit the United States branch office facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill should first correspond with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204, or at fax number (845) 306-0200. At least three weeks prior to visiting, please send information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. *Lodging information may be obtained from the congregation secretary.* Before your visit, please review the March 2008 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box and the brochure *Dress and Grooming for Visitors Touring Bethel.*

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in September

"Many people believe in angels. Do you? [Allow for response.] As spirit creatures angels are very powerful, but do you think they can help us? The Bible tells us how they assist mankind today." Show the back of the September 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return and discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM September 1

"Do you feel that man is ruining the earth beyond repair? [Allow for response.] Although man is not capable of repairing the damage he has done, the Bible tells us that God can and desires to do so. We have this assurance at Psalm 65:9. [Read.] This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses how God will care for the earth and how we can enjoy these future blessings. May I leave it with you to read?"

Awake!® September

"Many feel that they are overworked by their employer and see no way to escape the pressure. Experts say that work overload can lead to burnout, which can cause physical and emotional harm. What do you think can help a person maintain a balanced life? [Allow for a response.] Here's a thought-provoking Bible verse. [Read Ecclesiastes 4:6.] This magazine explains four practical ways that we can adjust our priorities and deal with workplace burnout."

Field Service Highlights

We are pleased to report that publishers in the United States are now preaching to thousands of native speakers of the Central Alaskan Yupik, Dakota, Hopi, and Q'anjob'al languages. Also, efforts are being made to translate additional publications into the Dakota, Hmong, Iu Mien, and Navajo languages. May Jehovah continue to bless our efforts to reach people out of all "nations and tribes and peoples and tongues."—Rev. 7:9.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 2014

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 8

Song 133 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 12 ¶16-21, box on p. 127 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Numbers 22-25 (10 min.)
No. 1: Numbers 22:36–23:10 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Satan Is Not Just the Evil Within People —*rs* p. 362 ¶3–p. 363 ¶1 (5 min.)
No. 3: Adam—In What Way Was Adam Made in the Likeness of God?—*it*-1 pp. 44-45 ¶6 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 94
15 min: Display Good Manners When Preaching. (2 Cor. 6:3) Discussion based on the following questions: (1) Why is it important that we display good manners while preaching? (2) How may we show good manners when (a) our group arrives in the territory? (b) we are walking from house to house in residential territory or driving from house to house in rural territory? (c) we are standing at a door? (d) our companion is giving a witness? (e) the householder is speaking? (f) the householder is busy or the weather is inclement? (g) the householder is rude?
15 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry —Laying the Groundwork for a Return Visit." Discussion. Include a soliloquy of a publisher preparing for the ministry and formulating a follow-up question to ask if the householder accepts the magazines.
Song 68 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Laying the Groundwork for a Return Visit

Why Important: When we find someone who shows interest, we want to return when he will be home so that we can water the seed of truth that we planted. (1 Cor. 3:6) This often requires that before we leave, we lay the groundwork for the return visit by finding out when we may come back. In addition, it is good to leave a question that we will discuss the next time we visit. This will build the householder's anticipation for the visit, and if the question is answered in the publication we left with him, he will be more likely to read it. Laying the groundwork for the next conversation also makes it easier to call back because the subject for the discussion has already been chosen, and the householder will know what to expect. When we see him again, we can explain that we returned to answer the question that we raised on the last visit and then proceed.

How to Do It:

- When preparing your house-to-house presentation, also prepare a follow-up question to be answered on the next visit. It could be based on a topic that is discussed in the literature you are offering that day, or it could be a question that is answered in one of our study publications, which you can introduce when you return.
- When concluding your conversation with a person who shows interest, let him know of your desire to talk to him again and then share the follow-up question you prepared. In some territories people are very busy and tend to be reluctant to make an appointment for you to visit them again. In those circumstances, you might say: "Is this usually a good time to find you at home? [Allow for response.] Next week, I'd like to stop by briefly and answer this question . . . If you are too busy when I come, you can just let me know."
- If you tell the householder that you will return at a specific time, keep your appointment. (Matt. 5:37) At the conclusion of the return visit, lay the groundwork for the next one.

Try This During the Month:

- When preparing your presentation, also prepare a follow-up question to answer next time. Share it with other publishers with whom you are working.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 15

Song 105 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 13 ¶1-10 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Numbers 26-29 (10 min.)
No. 1: Numbers 27:15–28:10 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: God Did Not Create the Devil—*rs* p. 363 ¶2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Adam—The Terrible Consequences of Sin—*it*-1 p. 45 ¶7–p. 46 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 11
15 min: What Have We Accomplished? Talk by the service overseer. Review the congregation's activity during the past service year, including the special campaign in August. Focus on the good things that were accomplished, and give appropriate commendation. Invite the audience to relate any good experiences they had during August, and interview a publisher who expanded his ministry. Conclude by mentioning one or two aspects of the ministry that the congregation can work on during the coming year, and offer practical suggestions for improvement.
15 min: "Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Nahum." Questions and answers.
Song 46 and Prayer

Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Nahum

[1] The ruins of ancient Nineveh give evidence that just as Nahum prophesied, Jehovah takes vengeance against His enemies and that even the fiercest of rivals is unable to take a stand against Him. (Nah. 1:2, 6) A closer look at Nahum's prophecy provides lessons for us in our ministry.

[2] **Offer Comfort and Hope:** At first glance, the book of Nahum appears to be only a pronouncement of doom against Nineveh, the proud capital of ancient Assyria. (Nah. 1:1; 3:7) However, this pronouncement came as welcome news to Jehovah's people. Nahum, whose name means "Comforter," reassured fellow Jews that their enemy would soon be no more! Nahum further confirmed that Jehovah is "a stronghold in the day of distress." (Nah. 1:7) As we preach, we too share good news and encourage others to seek refuge in Jehovah.—Nah. 1:15.

[3] **Use Examples and Illustrations:** Jehovah inspired Nahum to compare Nineveh's end to that of the Egyptian city of Thebes (No-amon), which was previously destroyed by Assyria itself. (Nah. 3:8-10) As we speak to individuals about the end of this wicked system of things, we can highlight Bible prophecies that prove that Jehovah fulfills his word down to the very last detail. For example, when the Babylonians and the Medes came against the city of Nineveh in 632 B.C.E., heavy rains caused the Tigris River to overflow, collapsing a portion of the city's impenetrable walls. Nineveh was then quickly captured, just as Jehovah foretold.—Nah. 1:8; 2:6.

[4] **Be Clear and Understandable:** Nahum's writing style was descriptive and dramatic. His points were clear. (Nah. 1:14; 3:1) Similarly, we want to use language that is easily understood. (1 Cor. 14:9) On the initial call, clearly explain the reason for your visit. As you study the Bible with individuals, help them to develop faith in Jehovah and his Word and to appreciate how the information applies to them personally.—Rom. 10:14.

[5] Nahum's trust in the undeniable fulfillment of Jehovah's word shines through clearly in the Bible book bearing his name. As the end of Satan's system approaches, we find comfort in the divine decree: "Distress will not arise a second time."—Nah. 1:9.

1. What do we learn from the book of Nahum?
2. How can we keep our message positive?
3. How can we imitate Nahum in using examples or illustrations?
4. How can we be clear and understandable in the ministry?
5. What assurance do we find in Nahum's prophecy?

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WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 22

Song 9 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 13 ¶11-18 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Numbers 30-32 (10 min.)
No. 1: Numbers 32:16-30 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why God Did Not Destroy Satan Promptly After He Rebelled—*rs* p. 363 ¶3–p. 364 ¶1 (5 min.)
No. 3: Administration—Human Administrations From Adam to the First Century—*it*-1 p. 48 ¶3-8 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 93
15 min: The Rich Life of a Missionary. (Prov. 10: 22) Discussion based on the *2014 Yearbook,* page 123, paragraph 2, to page 127, paragraph 4; and page 169. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
15 min: "Use jw.org in Your Ministry." Discussion. Demonstrate the presentation in paragraph 2. Then ask the audience: What advantages are there to having the video downloaded to our portable device? Why is it often best to play the video for the householder without a long introduction or without asking for permission? What experiences have you had using this video in the ministry? Conclude by encouraging publishers to become familiar with the various features of jw.org and to make use of the Web site in their ministry.
Song 84 and Prayer

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 29

Song 69 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 13 ¶19-23, box on p. 137 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Numbers 33-36 (10 min.)
No. 1: Numbers 33:24-49 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Do Not Underestimate the Devil's Power—*rs* p. 364 ¶2–p. 365 ¶2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Administration—The "Administration" That God Has Had in Operation Since 33 C.E.—*it*-1 p. 48 ¶9 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 108
10 min: Start a Bible Study on the First Saturday. Discussion. Demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in October, using the sample presentation on page 4. Encourage all to have a share.
10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Acts 4:13 and 2 Corinthians 4:1, 7 read. Consider how these verses can help us in our ministry.
10 min: Interview the Coordinator of the Body of Elders. What does caring for your assignment involve? What factors do you consider when assigning Service Meeting parts? Why is the coordinator not to be considered in charge of the body of elders or the congregation?
Song 4 and Prayer

Use jw.org in Your Ministry

Our Web site is a valuable tool to help us spread the good news "to the most distant part of the earth." (Acts 1:8) Most householders do not find jw.org on their own. Rather, they learn about it only after a publisher directs them to it.

A traveling overseer has downloaded the video *Why Study the Bible?* to his phone and shows it every chance he gets. For example, when going from house to house, he says: "I'm making brief visits to help people find answers to three important questions: Why does the world have so many problems? How will God fix them? And how can we cope in the meantime? This short video addresses those questions." He then presses the play button and watches the householder's reaction. The video is so captivating that most people do not take their eyes off the screen until the end. Then the traveling overseer says: "You just heard that you can request a Bible study online. Since I'm here, I could give you a quick demonstration now." If the householder agrees, he demonstrates the study using the *Good News* brochure. If the householder does not have time, he makes arrangements to do so on the next visit. When he goes to a coffee shop to take a break, he says something similar to someone sitting nearby after striking up a friendly conversation. Are you using jw.org in your ministry?

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 6

Song 18 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 14 ¶1-9 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Deuteronomy 1-3 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 2:16-30 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Relief From Satan's Wicked Influence Is Near—*rs* p. 365 ¶4–p. 366 ¶3 (5 min.)

No. 3: Does the Bible Teach That Sexual Relations Are Sinful?—*rs* p. 367 ¶1–p. 368 ¶2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 24

10 min: Offer the Magazines During October. Discussion. Start by demonstrating how the magazines may be offered, using the two sample presentations on this page. Then analyze the sample presentations from beginning to end.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Laying the Groundwork for a Return Visit." Ask the audience to relate good experiences.

Song 83 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **September and October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **November and December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?*

■ The special public talk for the 2015 Memorial season will be given during the week of April 6. The subject of the talk will be announced later. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 6.

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "How Godly Wisdom Benefits Us."

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in October

"We are making brief visits on our neighbors to talk about good government. Do you think that any government has the ability to eliminate difficult problems, such as violence and injustice?" Allow for response. Remind the householder that in the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught his followers to pray for such a government, God's Kingdom, to come. Show the back of the October 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM October 1

"We are having brief conversations with our neighbors about these words of a familiar prayer that Jesus taught his followers. [Read Matthew 6:9, 10.] Have you ever heard a good explanation of what God's Kingdom is and why Jesus emphasized it so much in his teaching? [Allow for response.] This magazine shows what the Bible says about God's Kingdom as well as some of the marvelous benefits it will bring to the earth."

Awake!® October

"We are visiting briefly to help people find the answer to this question. [Show the cover of the magazine.] Do you think that a person must be wealthy in order to be truly successful? [Allow for response.] The Bible presents a balanced view of material possessions. [Read Luke 12:15.] According to the Bible, true success is within the grasp of anyone. This magazine explains."

Field Service Highlights

It is impressive to note the following positive trend in the number of regular pioneers during the first seven months of the 2014 service year. There were increases of 6.4 percent in the Bahamas, 7.9 percent in Bermuda, 23.8 percent in the Cayman Islands, 2.6 percent in Jamaica, 5.6 percent in Puerto Rico, 3.8 percent in the Turks & Caicos Islands, 13.8 percent in the British Virgin Islands, 4.3 percent in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 4.6 percent in the United States. A grand total of 163,100 reported as regular pioneers in March. Are you able to join them?—Ps. 96:2.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

OCTOBER 2014

MONTHLY THEME: "Preach the word; be at it urgently."—2 Tim. 4:2.

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 13

Song 8 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 14 ¶10-15 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Deuteronomy 4-6 (10 min.)
No. 1: Deuteronomy 4:29-43 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Changes That Must Be Made to Please God—*rs* p. 369 ¶3–p. 370 ¶1 (5 min.)
No. 3: What the Bible Says About Homosexuality—*rs* p. 368 ¶4–p. 369 ¶2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 92
***5 min:* What Does It Mean to Preach With Urgency?** Enthusiastic talk highlighting 2 Timothy 4:2. Use material in the March 15, 2012, *Watchtower,* pages 16-17, paragraphs 7-9.
10 min: Why Is Our Preaching Urgent? Talk by an elder based on the March 15, 2012, *Watchtower,* pages 15-16, paragraphs 3-6, and page 18, paragraphs 14-18. Emphasize how applying the direction in the series of *Kingdom Ministry* articles entitled "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry" can help us to preach with a sense of urgency.
15 min: "Seize *Your* Opportunities to Spread the Kingdom Message!" Questions and answers. When considering paragraph 3, invite audience to relate experiences they have had witnessing informally. Conclude by tying in the monthly theme. Encourage audience to read the two articles in the series "A Conversation With a Neighbor" that will be discussed at next week's Service Meeting.
Song 97 and Prayer

Seize *Your* Opportunities to Spread the Kingdom Message!

[1] King David was someone who did not allow his circumstances to paralyze him. For example, David wanted to build a house for Jehovah. When he was prevented from doing so, David adjusted his goals and helped get things ready for Solomon to build the temple. (1 Ki. 8:17-19; 1 Chron. 29:3-9) Instead of dwelling on what he could not do, David focused on what he *could* do. How can we imitate David's example as we look for ways to spread the Kingdom message?

[2] **Do What You Can:** Many have simplified their life in order to enroll as auxiliary or regular pioneers. (Matt. 6:22, ftn.) Could you join them? As you prayerfully examine your circumstances, you may see that "a large door that leads to activity" is open to you. If so, seize that opportunity!—1 Cor. 16:8, 9.

[3] What, though, if your circumstances prevent you from pioneering? Do not overlook other opportunities available to you. For example, if your secular work brings you in contact with nonbelievers, why not seize an appropriate opportunity to witness to them? Or if you are dealing with health problems, can you take advantage of opportunities to witness to your health-care providers? Remember that there is a provision for those who are very limited in their activity because of age or a serious health condition to report field service time in 15-minute increments. When filling out your monthly field service report, be sure to include time spent witnessing informally as well as any literature placements, including individual tracts and Memorial and convention invitations. You may be surprised at how quickly the time from those seemingly small opportunities adds up!

[4] Whatever our personal circumstances, let us seize every opportunity to spread the good news. We will thereby experience the satisfaction of knowing that we are doing all we can for the sake of the Kingdom.—Mark 14:8; Luke 21:2-4.

1. What lesson can we learn from David's example?
2. What self-examination could we make?
3. What opportunities to witness can we take advantage of even if our circumstances do not allow us to pioneer?
4. What is your determination?

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 20

Song 109 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 14 ¶16-20, box on p. 147 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Deuteronomy 7-10 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 9:15-29 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Why a Perfect Man Could Sin—*rs* p. 371 ¶2–p. 372 ¶3 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adonijah—Do Not Question Jehovah's Decisions—*it*-1 pp. 49-50, Adonijah No. 1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 116

15 min: "Explaining Our Beliefs About 1914." Discussion. Invite comments on each bulleted question.

15 min: A Tool to Help Us Explain Our Beliefs About 1914. Begin with a seven-minute demonstration of a publisher using the chart on page 11 of the November 1, 2014, *Watchtower* to give his Bible student an overview of how the prophecy recorded in Daniel chapter 4 relates to God's Kingdom. Invite the audience to comment on why the demonstration was effective. Conclude by reading Revelation 12:10, 12 and inviting the audience to comment on how our knowing that the Kingdom began ruling in 1914 motivates us to preach the good news with urgency.

Song 133 and Prayer

Explaining Our Beliefs About 1914

The Scriptures encourage us to be "ready to make a defense" of our beliefs, "doing so with a mild temper and deep respect." (1 Pet. 3:15) Realistically, we may find it challenging to explain deep Bible truths, such as how we know that the Kingdom started ruling in 1914. To help us, a two-part series entitled "A Conversation With a Neighbor—When Did God's Kingdom Begin Ruling?" has been prepared. These articles appear in the issues of *The Watchtower* that we are featuring in our ministry during October and November. As you examine these articles, consider the following questions regarding the approach taken by Cameron, the publisher in the scenario.

How did he . . .

- use commendation to establish common ground?—Acts 17:22.
- display humility when explaining his beliefs?—Acts 14:15.

Why was it good that he . . .

- periodically summarized before covering additional points?
- paused from time to time and asked whether the householder understood what he had explained so far?
- did not try to cover too much information in one discussion? —John 16:12.

How grateful we can be to Jehovah, our "Grand Instructor," for teaching us how to explain deep Bible truths to those who hunger for them!—Isa. 30:20.

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WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 27

Song 5 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 15 ¶1-10 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Deuteronomy 11-13 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 45

15 min: "How to Cultivate a Sense of Urgency About Preaching." Discussion. Have a demonstration showing a publisher presenting the *Bible Teach* book or a tract.

15 min: Prepare Well to Preach With Urgency. Discussion based on the August 15, 2014, *Watchtower,* pages 14-15, paragraphs 14-20. Ask audience what issues or questions are weighing on people's minds in the local territory. How can we address these concerns in our ministry? Have two pioneers or a married couple demonstrate how to use this material to prepare presentations that will appeal to people in the territory. Participants may determine which publication they will feature.

Song 95 and Prayer

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning October 27, 2014.

1. Why did the Israelites complain against God and Moses as recorded at Numbers 21:5, and what warning is there in this account for us? [Sept. 1, *w99* 8/15 pp. 26-27]
2. Why did Jehovah's anger blaze against Balaam? (Num. 22:20-22) [Sept. 8, *w04* 8/1 p. 27 par. 2]
3. What does Numbers 25:11 tell us about the attitude of Phinehas, and how might we imitate him? [Sept. 8, *w04 8/1* p. 27 par. 4]
4. In what ways did Moses set an excellent example of humility for us today? (Num. 27:5, 15-18) [Sept. 15, *w13* 2/1 p. 5]
5. How did Joshua and Caleb provide powerful evidence that imperfect people can walk in God's ways successfully despite opposition? (Num. 32:12) [Sept. 22, *w93* 11/15 p. 14 par. 13]
6. How might the obedience of Zelophehad's daughters affect a single Christian's view of marriage? (Num. 36:10-12) [Sept. 29, *w08* 2/15 pp. 4-5 par. 10]
7. What was the consequence to the Israelites for their complaining attitude and negative speech, and what lesson can we learn from this account? (Deut. 1:26-28, 34, 35) [Oct. 6, *w13* 8/15 p. 11 par. 7]
8. In order to have Jehovah's blessing and prosper in the Promised Land, what twofold responsibility did the Israelites have to fulfill? (Deut. 4:9) [Oct. 13, *w06* 6/1 p. 29 par. 15]
9. In what way did the Israelites' clothing not wear out and their feet not become swollen during the wilderness trek? (Deut. 8:3, 4) [Oct. 20, *w04* 9/15 p. 26 par. 1]
10. How can we apply the exhortation given to the Israelites to "hold fast" to Jehovah? (Deut. 13:4, 6-9) [Oct. 27, *w02* 10/15 p. 16 par. 14]

How to Cultivate a Sense of Urgency About Preaching

A sense of urgency must be cultivated, and it is necessary to have it to survive the end of this system of things. By heeding the following reminders, we can strengthen our sense of urgency.

- Pray regularly about the Kingdom. —Matt. 6:10.
- Protect your heart by reading the Bible daily.—Heb. 3:12.
- Use your time wisely. —Eph. 5:15, 16; Phil. 1:10.
- Keep a "focused" eye. Do not become distracted by worldly desires.—Matt. 6:22, 25; 2 Tim. 4:10.
- Keep on the watch by remaining alert to the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. —Mark 13:35-37.

Our having a sense of urgency will motivate us to share fully in the work that is yet to be finished!—John 4:34, 35.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 3

Song 79 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 15 ¶11-19 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Deuteronomy 14-18 (10 min.)
No. 1: Deuteronomy 15:16–16:8 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why We Recognize Sin for What It Is—*rs* p. 373 ¶1–p. 374 ¶1 (5 min.)
No. 3: Adoption—How Adoption Was Viewed and Practiced, As Revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures—*it*-1 p. 50 ¶3-6 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 103
10 min: Help Young Ones Prepare for the Ministry. Discussion. Play the video *Become Jehovah's Friend—Let's Go in Service.* (Go to jw.org, and look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > CHILDREN.) Ask young ones: How many of you have a service bag? What do you have in your bag? What was the first thing Sophia put in her bag? What else did she need? After her bag was packed, what important thing was she going to do with her mother? Have a young one demonstrate his or her magazine presentation.
10 min: How Some Preach the Word Urgently. Elder interviews two or three publishers who have taken practical steps to adjust their schedules in order to increase their share in the ministry or to pioneer. Conclude by reviewing the congregation's field service arrangements, and encourage all to take practical steps to have a full share in the ministry.
10 min: How Has Your Ministry Improved? Discussion by the service overseer. Entertain comments from audience on how the recent "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry" articles have helped them make improvement in various areas of the ministry. Conclude by encouraging all to continue to preach with urgency by applying the suggestions in these articles.
Song 100 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **November and December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **January**: *Good News From God!* or *Was Life Created?*

■ Since November has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in November

"Please note this interesting question. [Read the first question on the back of the November 1 *Watchtower.*] What do you think? [Read the two paragraphs under that question and at least one of the cited scriptures.] May I return so that we can discuss why Jesus performed these resurrections and what this means for us?"

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM November 1

"Have you ever wondered why so many terrible things are happening in the world? [Allow for response.] The Bible explains why at Revelation 12:9. [Read.] However, verse 12 gives us reason for hope. [Read Revelation 12:12.] Satan's evil influence will soon be gone. This article entitled 'Should We Fear Satan?' discusses how we can protect ourselves from his influence *now* and what will happen to Satan in the near future. Here is your copy."

Awake!® November

"Everyone wants to be happy, but many today are not. What do you think leads to real happiness? [Allow for response.] I find the Bible to be helpful in building a happy life. For example, notice this Bible principle. [Read Hebrews 13:5.] This magazine highlights four Bible-based keys to real happiness."

Field Service Highlights

We are pleased to report that on April 14, the attendance at the Memorial was 2,610,810 in the United States branch territory. This is more than twice the number of publishers that reported in April. May we be motivated by Christ's love to follow up on interest generated by this special event.—2 Cor. 5:14.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

NOVEMBER 2014

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 10

Song 99 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 15 ¶20-23, box on p. 157 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 19-22 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 22:20-30 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Sin's Effect on Our Relationship With God—*rs* p. 374 ¶2–p. 375 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adoption—Jehovah Adopts Spiritual Sons by Means of Christ Jesus—*it*-1 p. 51 ¶1-3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 12

10 min: Interview the Service Overseer. What does caring for your assignment involve? When visiting a field service group, what do you try to accomplish? How can those in the group gain the most benefit from your visit? How do you assist individual publishers who approach you to receive help with a particular aspect of the ministry?

20 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Showing Personal Interest." Discussion. After discussing the article, have a two-part demonstration. First, have a publisher present the offer for the month without showing personal interest. Then, demonstrate the situation again, this time with the publisher showing personal interest.

Song 84 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Showing Personal Interest

Why Important: Jesus viewed people as individuals, and he showed loving personal interest in them. For example, on one occasion Jesus may have sensed some uneasiness in a deaf man, so when he healed him, he did so privately, away from the stares of the crowd. (Mark 7:31-35) He showed consideration for his disciples by recognizing their limitations and not overwhelming them with too much information. (John 16:12) Even in his heavenly position, Jesus shows personal interest. (2 Tim. 4:17) As followers of Christ, we want to imitate him. (1 Pet. 2:21; 1 John 3:16, 18) Furthermore, we will be more effective in our ministry if we show consideration for the householder and take note of his unique circumstances, his interests, and his concerns. He will be more likely to listen if he senses that we are not just on a mission to deliver a message or to leave literature; rather, we are interested in him personally.

How to Do It:

- Be well-prepared. Relax, smile, and be friendly.
- Be observant. Do you see indications that the person has children? that he enjoys gardening or has pets? that he has certain religious beliefs? Perhaps you can tailor your introduction to fit his circumstances.
- Ask for his opinion, and listen carefully without needlessly interrupting. Maintain eye contact to show that you are listening. Acknowledge his comments, and commend him if you can do so sincerely. Avoid being argumentative.
- Be adaptable. If necessary, adjust your presentation to address the person's concerns. This may be easier than you think, since our tracts, brochures, and magazines discuss a wide variety of subjects. If you have called at an inopportune time, such as when he is busy, acknowledge that and shorten your presentation.

Try This During the Month:

- Have practice sessions during family worship, or perhaps while in the ministry, in which the publisher must adapt his presentation to address something the householder says.
- During some meetings for field service, the brother conducting could discuss or demonstrate ways to show personal interest.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 17

Song 26 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 16 ¶1-9 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 23-27 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 25:17–26:10 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What the Bible Says About the Soul—*rs* p. 375 ¶4–p. 376 ¶4 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adornment—Adornment as Described in the Scriptures—*it*-1 p. 51 ¶4-7 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 118

10 min: ***What's a Real Friend?*** Discussion based on the whiteboard animation *What's a Real Friend?* (Go to jw.org, and look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > TEENAGERS.) Begin by playing the video for the audience. Afterward, use these questions as the basis for the discussion: (1) What is a real friend? (2) What should you look for in a potential friend? (3) How can you find a good friend? (4) What kind of effort do you need to put forth to make your friendships grow?

10 min: Love Identifies Us. (John 13:35) Discussion based on the *2014 Yearbook,* page 48, paragraph 1, to page 49, paragraph 3; and page 69, paragraph 1, to page 70, paragraph 2. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

10 min: "An Exciting and Fresh Approach to Public Witnessing." Questions and answers. If the congregation has areas of high pedestrian traffic, interview the service overseer regarding local arrangements for public witnessing and invite the audience to relate experiences.

Song 92 and Prayer

An Exciting and Fresh Approach to Public Witnessing

1 Congregations that have areas of high pedestrian traffic have been encouraged to organize public witnessing, using tables or mobile displays. If a mobile display is used, at least one publisher stands or sits next to the display. However, two publishers should man a table display. Those stationed at the displays endeavor to be warm, friendly, and inviting. If a person gives his attention to the display, one of the publishers can start a conversation, perhaps by saying, "Have you ever wondered what the Bible says about that subject?" Another publisher or two can be within eyesight of the display while engaging in informal witnessing.

2 This approach has resulted in many new Bible studies. One college student chose to write a research paper on Jehovah's Witnesses, but she was unable to find a Kingdom Hall. The next week she saw a table display on the campus. A Bible study was started, and now that student is a baptized publisher and participates in this form of witnessing herself.

3 One sister who has enjoyed this form of public witnessing commented: "Some stop at the display to pick up the current magazines. Others have never heard of Jehovah's Witnesses before. I can see that with this approach, many can be reached." Another sister remarked, "This is an exciting, fresh method of witnessing because the people *come to you* and, at the very least, they are curious."

4 It is beneficial to set up the display at the same location, on the same days, and at the same times each week. As a result, people get used to seeing the displays and eventually feel comfortable enough to approach and ask questions or obtain literature. Has your congregation organized public witnessing? If so, perhaps you can participate in this enjoyable and fruitful way to "declare abroad the Kingdom of God."—Luke 9:60.

1. What have congregations with areas of high pedestrian traffic been encouraged to do?

2. Relate an experience that illustrates the value of public witnessing with a literature display.

3. How do some feel about this avenue of public witnessing?

4. Why is it beneficial to set up a literature display at the same times and location each week?

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WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 24

Song 50 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 16 ¶10-17 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 28-31 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 30:15–31:8 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Animals Are Souls—*rs* p. 376 ¶5–p. 377 ¶3 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adornment—Christian Counsel on Personal Adornment—*it*-1 p. 51 ¶8–p. 52 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 47

10 min: "Use Our Web Site in the Ministry —'Bible Questions Answered.'" Discussion. Relate some of the questions that are answered in this section of our Web site. (Go to jw.org, and look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED.) Briefly demonstrate one of the suggestions from the article. Invite the audience to suggest other ways to use this feature in the ministry.

10 min: "I Cannot Find Him at Home Again!" Discussion. Consider why it is important to persevere when it is difficult to find a person at home again.—Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 4:14, 15; 1 Cor. 3:6.

10 min: "A New Research Tool." Talk. Review the instructions on "How to Start Your Search," located in the introduction of the *Research Guide.* Highlight the various features of this new tool. Include a brief soliloquy of a publisher using the *Research Guide.*

Song 69 and Prayer

Use Our Web Site in the Ministry —"Bible Questions Answered"

The "Bible Teachings" section of jw.org has a feature called "Bible Questions Answered." If we are familiar with these frequently asked questions, we can direct inquiring householders to our Web site for Scriptural answers. These questions can also be used to start conversations in the ministry. We could pick a question that is of interest to people in our territory, ask the householder for his opinion, and then tell him what the Bible says, using the reasoning from jw.org. Afterward, we can explain or show him where we found our information. Another option is to let him read the answer directly from the Web site. The wife of a traveling overseer has had good success by saying: "Many people wonder, 'Is God to blame for our suffering?' Would you like to know the answer in just 51 seconds?" She then plays the audio version of the answer that she has downloaded to her mobile device. She concludes by introducing chapter 11 of the *Bible Teach* book.

"I Cannot Find Him at Home Again!"

Have you ever said that about someone who showed interest? Even though you have repeatedly tried to visit the person, you are unable to water the seed of truth you planted. (1 Cor. 3:6) At times, experienced publishers write a letter to someone they have not been able to find at home, or they leave a note in the person's door. Some publishers anticipate the challenge of finding the person at home again and request his phone number, perhaps by asking, "Do you text?" A return visit may be counted when we visit the person or witness to him by means of a letter, an e-mail, a text, a note left in his door, or a telephone call. Even if he is seldom at home, it is possible for us to further his interest.

A New Research Tool

Millions of publishers earth wide have made good use of the *Watch Tower Publications Index* to do research. However, because it is very detailed, it is available in only a limited number of languages. Therefore, the *Research Guide for Jehovah's Witnesses* has been prepared in some 170 languages. The publications referenced in the *Research Guide* are primarily from the year 2000 onward. The *Research Guide* has not been printed in languages that already have the *Index* but is included in electronic format in *Watchtower Library* and *Watchtower—ONLINE LIBRARY.* The *Research Guide* will help you search for answers to Bible questions, find information regarding personal concerns, and prepare for congregation meetings and family worship.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 1

Song 48 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

cl chap. 16 ¶18-22, box on p. 167 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Deuteronomy 32-34 (10 min.)

No. 1: Deuteronomy 32:22-35 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: At Death, Neither Soul Nor Spirit Continues Living—*rs* p. 377 ¶4–p. 379 ¶6 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adultery—To Commit Adultery Is to Sin Against God—*it*-1 p. 53 ¶4–p. 54 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 128

10 min: Offer the Magazines During December. Discussion. Demonstrate the three sample presentations on this page. After each presentation, invite comments from the audience on why the subject being featured may appeal to some in the territory.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: How Did We Do? Discussion. Invite publishers to comment on how they benefited by applying points from the article "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Showing Personal Interest." Ask the audience to relate good experiences.

Song 119 and Prayer

Announcements

■ **November and December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **January and February:** *Good News From God!* or *Was Life Created?*

■ Donations for the worldwide work that are sent directly to the branch office should be made payable to "Watchtower." The branch office's financial address is Watchtower, c/o Accounting Office, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. If you would like to donate electronically, ask your congregation secretary about the July 8, 2013, letter to all congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in December

"We are here as a public service to families. Many parents want their children to love God. Do you think this is something that parents can teach their children, or must children learn to love God on their own?" Allow for response. Show the back of the December 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM December 1

"We are making brief visits to talk about God. We know that everyone has his own opinion about God. Do you think that most people view him as an impersonal force of nature or as a friend who cares about them personally? [Allow for response.] This Bible verse tells us what kind of relationship God wants us to have with him. [Read James 4:8a.] This magazine outlines three things that we can do to feel closer to God."

Awake!® December

"We are visiting briefly because of concern over a common health problem. According to the World Health Organization, mental disorders, such as depression, will affect one in four people at some point in their lives. Do you think that mental disorders are becoming more common? [Allow for response.] The Bible gives us hope that in the future, life on earth will be free of illness and pain. [Read Revelation 21:3, 4.] This magazine outlines a few things that everyone should know about mental disorders."

Field Service Highlights

From January through May 2014, publishers sharing in the special metropolitan public witnessing program have started 3,598 Bible studies and placed 70,698 books and 149,507 magazines. As of May 2014 this program was active in the following 13 cities: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York City, Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Juan (Puerto Rico), Seattle, Spanish Town (Jamaica), and Washington, D.C. May we individually take advantage of every opportunity to preach the good news.—Rom. 10:14.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

DECEMBER 2014

MONTHLY THEME: **Send out "good things" out of the good treasure entrusted to us.—Matt. 12:35a.**

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 8

Song 6 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 17 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Joshua 1-5 (10 min.)
No. 1: Joshua 1:1-18 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: What Holy Spirit Is—*rs* p. 380 ¶2–p. 381 ¶1 (5 min.)
No. 3: Adultery—How Could One Become Guilty of Spiritual Adultery?—*it*-1 p. 54 ¶2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 94
10 min: "Good Things" in Store for Us This Month. Talk. Highlight monthly theme. (Matt. 12:35a) We received spiritual treasures from someone who taught us the truth. (See *The Watchtower,* April 1, 2002, p. 16, pars. 5-7.) In turn, we should share our "good things" with others. (Gal. 6:6) Arouse interest in the "good things" we will receive this month at upcoming Service Meetings. We will be helped to develop our teaching skills as well as learn to sing new songs.
20 min: "Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Demonstrating a Bible Study by Using the *Bible Teach* Book." Discussion. Have a well-qualified publisher or a pioneer demonstrate a Bible study using the *Bible Teach* book.
Song 96 and Prayer

Improving Our Skills in the Ministry—Demonstrating a Bible Study by Using the *Bible Teach* Book

Why Important: Many people may not understand what we mean when we say that we offer free home Bible studies. They may think that they have to join a study group or take some sort of correspondence course. Instead of simply *offering* a study, why not *demonstrate* a study? In just a few minutes, even on the doorstep, you can *show* a person what an easy and enlightening experience it can be to study the Bible.

How to Do It:

- After introducing yourself, ask the householder if he is concerned about the future.
- Mention that many people have similar concerns, and show him the table of contents in the *Bible Teach* book. Explain that this book has easy-to-understand lessons that show what the Bible teaches about the future and other subjects, and ask him which chapter he is interested in.
- Hand him a copy of the book, and direct him to the chapter that he selected. Explain that the questions at the beginning of the chapter are answered in the paragraphs that follow.
- Ask the householder to read the first paragraph if he feels comfortable doing so. Then read the question for that paragraph, and consider the answer together. Look up and discuss scriptures cited in support of the answer. Show him how you have highlighted the answer in your book.
- Consider the next paragraph, but this time ask the householder to try answering the question in his own words.
- Commend him, and make arrangements to return to complete the lesson.
- If appropriate, direct attention to the video on jw.org entitled *What Happens at a Bible Study?*

Try This During the Month:

- Pray for Jehovah to bless your efforts to start a new Bible study.—Phil. 2:13.
- Try to demonstrate a Bible study using the *Bible Teach* book or show the video *What Happens at a Bible Study?* at least once while engaging in the ministry.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 15

Song 1 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 17 ¶9-16 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Joshua 6-8 (10 min.)

No. 1: Joshua 8:18-29 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What Gives Evidence That a Person Has Holy Spirit?—*rs* p. 381 ¶3–p. 382 ¶1 (5 min.)

No. 3: Adversary—The Most Wicked Adversary of All Is Satan the Devil—*it*-1 p. 54 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 101

15 min: "Conducting Effective Bible Studies." Questions and answers. After considering paragraph 3, have a two-part demonstration showing a publisher and a Bible student discussing paragraph 8 in chapter 15 of the *Bible Teach* book. In the first demonstration, the publisher talks too much. In the second, the publisher asks viewpoint questions to help him discern the student's thinking.

15 min: A Tool to Help You Prepare to Conduct Bible Studies. Discussion. Draw the attention of the audience to the section of jw.org entitled "What Does the Bible Teach?" (Look under BIBLE TEACHINGS > TEENAGERS.) Discuss how this material can be used to help us conduct effective Bible studies with young people as well as with older ones. How can the questions raised on these work sheets help us reach the student's heart? Include a soliloquy of a publisher using one of these work sheets to help him think about the needs of his student and prepare effective questions. Conclude by encouraging the audience to become better teachers by endeavoring to reach their students' hearts by using the good things we have to help others.—Prov. 20:5.

Song 99 and Prayer

Conducting Effective Bible Studies

1 No one can serve God unless Jehovah "draws him." (John 6:44) Even so, publishers who conduct Bible studies must do their part in helping people to draw close to their heavenly Father. (Jas. 4:8) This requires preparation. Simply reading each paragraph and asking the printed question is not enough to help our students grasp the message and make progress.

2 To conduct effective studies, publishers must help their students to (1) understand what the Bible teaches, (2) accept what the Bible teaches, and (3) put into practice what the Bible teaches. (John 3:16; 17:3; Jas. 2:26) It can take months to guide an individual through these steps. Yet, each step represents a stage in his developing a relationship with Jehovah and making a dedication to him.

3 **What Is the Bible Student Thinking?:** To discern if our Bible student understands and accepts what he is learning, avoid doing all the talking and encourage the student to express himself. (Jas. 1:19) Does he understand what the Bible says on the subject being considered? Can he explain the subject in his own words? How does he feel about what he has learned? Does he believe that what the Bible teaches is reasonable? (1 Thess. 2:13) Does he understand that what he is learning should make a difference in the way he lives his life? (Col. 3:10) In order to get answers to such questions, we need to ask

1. What responsibility do publishers who conduct Bible studies have?
2. What will an effective Bible study accomplish?
3. Why do effective teachers ask viewpoint questions?

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tactful viewpoint questions and then *listen.*—Matt. 16:13-16.

4 Habits and thought patterns are often deeply entrenched and take time to unlearn. (2 Cor. 10:5) What if our student does not accept or put into practice what he is being taught? Patience is required to allow a reasonable amount of time for God's Word and holy spirit to work on the student's heart. (1 Cor. 3:6, 7; Heb. 4: 12) Rather than pressuring him, it is often better to move on to another subject if the student is having difficulty understanding or applying a Bible teaching. As we continue to teach him patiently and lovingly from the Bible, he may in time be moved to make the needed adjustments.

4. What should be done if a student has difficulty understanding or applying what he is being taught from the Bible?

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 22

Song 15 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 17 ¶17-23, box on p. 177 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Joshua 9-11 (10 min.)
No. 1: Joshua 9:16-27 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: There Is No Spirit Part of Man That Survives Death—*rs* p. 382 ¶5–p. 383 ¶2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Affection—Maintain a Warm Personal Attachment to Jehovah and to Those Who Love Him—*it*-1 p. 55 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 119
***5 min:* Local needs.**
***25 min:* "2015 Theocratic Ministry School Helps Us Improve Our Teaching."** Discussion by the Theocratic Ministry School overseer. The school overseer may choose to have certain paragraphs read before considering them. Emphasize the changes to Assignment No. 1, the timing for the Bible Highlights, and the counsel by the school overseer. Have paragraph 7 read, and after discussing it, have a model demonstration of an elder conducting a family study with his wife and child, using the material on page 18 of the *New World Translation.* Encourage all to take full advantage of the excellent theocratic training provided in the school and to make good use of the textbook *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education.*
Song 117 and Prayer

2015 Theocratic Ministry School Helps Us Improve Our Teaching

1 The psalmist David wrote: "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Jehovah, my Rock and my Redeemer." (Ps. 19:14) We too want our words to be pleasing to Jehovah because we treasure our privilege of speaking the truth in the congregation and in the ministry. The Theocratic Ministry School is one of the ways that Jehovah trains us for the ministry. This training takes place each week in the more than 111,000 congregations worldwide. It has helped brothers and sisters around the globe and from all walks of life to become adequately qualified as ministers of the good news, capable of teaching with persuasion, tact, and boldness.—Acts 19:8; Col. 4:6.

2 The school schedule for 2015 will include subjects considered in "An Introduction to God's Word" and the "Glossary of Bible Terms" found in the *New World Translation,* as well as material from *Insight on the Scriptures,* Volume 1. Additionally, adjustments have been made in the time allotted for Bible highlights

and Assignment No. 1. These changes along with instructions on how parts on the school are to be presented are considered in the following paragraphs.

[3] **Bible Highlights:** Brothers assigned this part will have *two minutes* to consider *one* interesting and practical Scriptural point from the weekly Bible reading. Good preparation will result in sharing a point of value with the congregation within the allotted time. Thereafter, the congregation will have the customary *six minutes* to offer comments of 30 seconds or less on interesting points they found in the weekly Bible reading. It takes preparation and self-discipline to make a meaningful comment in 30 seconds, but doing so is good training for us. It also allows time for others to comment on what they have learned in their personal research.

[4] **Assignment No. 1:** The time allotted for the Bible reading has been reduced to *three minutes or less* and will cover less material. Those who receive a reading assignment should rehearse it several times by reading it aloud and paying close attention to proper pronunciation and fluency in order to convey thoughts with understanding. All of Jehovah's people should strive to read well, since reading plays an important role in our worship. How delighted we are that so many of our children read well! Parents are to be commended for their loving efforts to help their children become good readers.

[5] **Assignment No. 2:** This will be a *five-minute* presentation assigned to a sister. The assigned theme should be used. When an assignment is based on material found in the *New World Translation,* it should be applied to an aspect of field service that is realistic and practical for the local territory. When the assignment is based on a Bible character in *Insight on the Scriptures,* Volume 1, the student should study the information found under the Bible character's name, select appropriate scriptures to be used, and show what can be learned from the example of the Bible character. Additional scriptures that tie in with the theme may be included. The school overseer will assign one assistant.

[6] **Assignment No. 3:** This will be a *five-minute* presentation assigned to a brother or a sister. When assigned to a sister, this part should be presented as outlined for Assignment No. 2. When assigned to a brother, the material that is based on *Insight* should be given as a talk with the audience in mind. The student should develop the assigned theme, select appropriate scriptures to be used, and show what can be learned from the example of the Bible character.

[7] **A New Feature of Assignment No. 3 for Brothers:** When the assignment is based on the material in the *New World Translation,* it should be presented as a demonstration of family worship or field service. Usually the school overseer will assign an assistant and the setting. The assistant should be a member of

the student's family or a brother in the congregation. Additional scriptures that highlight Bible principles that tie in with the theme may be included in the presentation. From time to time, an elder may be assigned to present this part. Elders may choose their own assistant and setting. Undoubtedly, it will be encouraging for the congregation to see elders demonstrate the art of teaching with a family member or another brother.

Make advancement by accepting and applying counsel

[8] **Counsel:** The school overseer will use *two minutes* after each student's presentation to give commendation as well as constructive counsel based on *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education.* When the school overseer introduces a student's part on the program, he will not announce the point of counsel the student is working on. After each presentation, the overseer should give the student sincere commendation, *announce the point of counsel the student is working on* and state specifically why the student did well on that point or kindly explain why it would be beneficial for the student to give that particular point further attention.

[9] The student's counsel form can be found on pages 79 to 81 of his personal copy of the *Ministry School* book. After a student cares for his assignment, the school overseer will make the appropriate notations in the student's book and will privately ask whether the student did the exercise related to the assigned counsel point. Commendation as well as additional helpful suggestions may be given to the student after the meeting or at another time. The personal attention that each student receives in the school should be viewed as an opportunity to help him make spiritual advancement.—1 Tim. 4:15.

[10] If a student talk runs overtime, the school overseer or an assistant should be alert to give a signal, such as a bell or a tapping noise, to indicate in a discreet manner that the student's time is up. The student should acknowledge the signal by completing his sentence and leaving the platform.—See *Ministry School* book, p. 282, par. 4.

[11] All who meet the requirements are encouraged to enroll in the Theocratic Ministry School. (See *Ministry School* book, p. 282, par. 6.) The education that this school provides has enabled Jehovah's people to preach and teach the good news of the Kingdom with conviction, dignity, and love. Jehovah is undoubtedly pleased to be praised by all those who are benefiting so much from theocratic education!—Ps. 148:12, 13; Isa. 50:4.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 29

Song 37 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 18 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Joshua 12-15 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 89

20 min: Progressively Teach "Good Things" to Bible Students and Believing Children. (Matt. 12:35a) Discussion. Use the following scriptures to show what we should expect of Bible students and believing children: 1 Corinthians 13: 11; 1 Peter 2:2, 3, footnote. Explain what it means to "taste" the "milk of the word" and how we can help our students and children to do this. Explain the principle at Mark 4:28. (See *The Watchtower,* December 15, 2014, p. 12, pars. 6-8.) Interview an experienced publisher or parent who can explain how he or she helped a Bible student or a child make spiritual progress.—Eph. 4: 13-15; see the May 2014 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.

10 min: "Share 'Good Things' by Being Hospitable (Matt. 12:35a)." Discussion. What benefits or experiences have some had because of showing hospitality? Invite comments about how we can show hospitality to others, especially those in full-time service. Mention local arrangement to provide a meal for each visiting speaker.

Song 124 and Prayer

Share "Good Things" by Being Hospitable (Matt. 12:35a)

All of us undoubtedly want to share "good things" with others by following "the course of hospitality." (Rom. 12:13) The elders take the lead in arranging for visiting speakers to receive hospitality and reimbursement for their travel expenses. However, we personally might hesitate to show hospitality because of having limited means, or we might feel anxious about having others come to our home. Our taking to heart Jesus' counsel to Martha can help us overcome such feelings. (Luke 10:39-42) He emphasized that "the good portion" of hospitality is the fellowship and encouragement, not an elaborate meal or fine home decor. By applying this counsel, we all can share "good things" with our brothers in accord with God's Word.—3 John 5-8.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning December 29, 2014.

1. How do we view the command at Deuteronomy 14:1 prohibiting self-mutilation during a period of mourning for a dead person? [Nov. 3, *w04* 9/15 p. 27 par. 5]
2. What was the objective of having the kings of Israel make a copy of God's Law and 'read from it all the days of their life'? (Deut. 17:18-20) [Nov. 3, *w02* 6/15 p. 12 par. 4]
3. Why is it stated that "you must not plow with a bull and a donkey together," and how does the command about uneven yoking apply to Christians? (Deut. 22:10) [Nov. 10, *w03* 10/15 p. 32]
4. Why was seizing "a hand mill or its upper millstone as security for a loan" prohibited? (Deut. 24:6) [Nov. 17, *w04* 9/15 p. 26 par. 3]
5. With what attitude were the Israelites to be obedient, and what should be the motivating force for our service to Jehovah? (Deut. 28:47) [Nov. 24, *w10* 9/15 p. 8 par. 4]
6. What three basic requirements for life are found at Deuteronomy 30:19, 20? [Nov. 24, *w10* 2/15 p. 28 par. 17]
7. Are we required to utter in a low voice all the words we read from Genesis to Revelation? Explain. (Josh. 1:8) [Dec. 8, *w13* 4/15 p. 7 par. 4]
8. Who is "the prince of Jehovah's army" mentioned at Joshua 5:14, 15, and how can this account encourage us? [Dec. 8, *w04* 12/1 p. 9 par. 2]
9. What led to Achan's fall into sin, and what can we learn from his bad example? (Josh. 7:20, 21) [Dec. 15, *w10* 4/15 pp. 20-21 pars. 2, 5]
10. How does Caleb's example serve as encouragement for us today? (Josh. 14:10-13) [Dec. 29, *w04* 12/1 p. 12 par. 2]

New Songs for Worship!

[1] At the most recent annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, which was held on October 4, 2014, plans were announced to revise our current songbook. That truly was exciting news! All in attendance were reminded of the important place that our Kingdom songs ought to have in our worship.—Ps. 96:2.

[2] You may wonder, 'Why is it necessary to revise the songbook?' There are several reasons. First of all, our understanding of the Scriptures continues to be refined, and that can affect the lyrics of our songs. (Prov. 4:18) Another reason for the revision: Many expressions and phrases that are used in the current songbook were drawn from the earlier edition of the *New World Translation*. Those lyrics must now be adjusted to correspond with the wording of the revised edition. Since extensive work would need to be done just to bring the lyrics up-to-date, it was decided to add a few new songs to the book.

[3] Will we have to wait until a new songbook is printed before we can begin using the new songs? No. We are pleased to inform you that over the next several months, a number of new songs will be released on our Web site, jw.org. When a new song is released, it will be scheduled at the end of a Service Meeting with the notation "new song."

[4] **How to Learn the New Songs:** It can be challenging to learn a new song. Still, like the psalmist, we want to sing out at congregation meetings and "not keep silent." (Ps. 30:12) To learn a new song, follow these simple steps.

- Listen repeatedly to the piano recording of the song, which will be posted on our Web site. The more you listen to the melody, the easier it will be for you to remember it.
- Study the lyrics, and try to memorize them.
- Sing the melody together with the lyrics. Do so until you have mastered the song.
- Rehearse the new songs a few times during your Family Worship session until your family is comfortable with them.

[5] In future months when a new song is scheduled to conclude the Service Meeting, the congregation will listen once to the piano recording. The audience will then sing the song along with the piano recording, as we do for the other songs.

[6] When you think about it, singing at our meetings affords us the joy of unitedly joining our voices in praise to Jehovah. Therefore, we should not get into the habit of leaving our seats unnecessarily when a song is introduced at our Christian meetings.

[7] There is another way we can show proper appreciation for our sacred music. At assemblies and conventions, a musical interlude is played before each session begins. Twice a year, devoted brothers and sisters from the four corners of the earth travel at their own expense to Patterson, New York, in order to produce beautiful music for use in our worship. Thus, when the chairman invites us to take our seats and listen to what the orchestra has prepared, we should do so. Our doing this will help us to prepare our hearts for the information that will follow.—Ezra 7:10.

[8] We will conclude our meeting today with the new song entitled "The Kingdom Is in Place—Let It Come!" This song, which was featured at the recent annual meeting, was specially composed to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Kingdom.

[9] The new songs are certainly "good things" from Jehovah. (Matt. 12:35a) Let us make it our resolve to learn these new songs and sing them from our hearts, giving fitting praise and honor to our God! —Ps. 147:1.

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 5

Song 113 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl chap. 18 ¶9-19 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Joshua 16-20 (8 min.)
No. 1: Joshua 17:11-18 (3 min. or less)
No. 2: Who Is God?—*nwt* p. 6 ¶1-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: King Ahab—Theme: There Can Be No Peace for the Wicked—*it*-1 pp. 59-60 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 28
30 min: "New Songs for Worship!" Discussion. When considering paragraph 6, have the piano recording of "The Kingdom Is in Place—Let It Come!" played for the congregation. Then invite the audience to stand and sing the new song. It may be necessary to sing the song twice to help the congregation learn this new song.
New song "The Kingdom Is in Place—Let It Come!" and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **January and February:** *Good News From God!* or *Was Life Created?* **March:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines.

■ The Memorial for **2016** will be Wednesday, March 23, 2016.

■ Beginning January 1, 2015, the arrangement for congregations to use the first Saturday of each month to concentrate on starting Bible studies will be discontinued. Instead, publishers may offer magazines as they do on other Saturdays. We can offer Bible studies anytime during the month, using magazines or other study publications.

Sample Presentations

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM January 1

"It seems as if corruption in government has always been a problem. Why do you think that is so? [Allow for response.] I found this comment in the Bible to be interesting. [Read Ecclesiastes 7:20.] This magazine highlights the Bible's solutions to corruption. Please take a little time to read it. Here is your copy."

Awake!® January

"Many people believe that evolution explains how life began, but others are not so sure. How do you think life began? [Allow for response.] Decades of research indicate that life comes only from preexisting life. This agrees with this simple statement found in the Bible. [Read Psalm 36:9.] This magazine discusses why many have concluded that life is too complex and marvelous to be the result of evolution."

Good News From God!

"We're visiting the families on your street to share an encouraging thought from the Bible. Many that we've talked to wonder why a loving God would allow so much suffering in the world. Do you think that suffering was part of God's original purpose for the earth?" Allow for response. Turn to Lesson 5, read and discuss the first two paragraphs and the scriptures in italics, and offer the brochure.

Field Service Highlights

Puerto Rico reported a new all-time peak of 3,279 regular pioneers for the month of June. In the United States branch territory, a total of 6,746 newly dedicated ones were baptized in June, during which month both international and regional conventions were held. How we rejoice to see this increase!—Isa. 60:22.

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